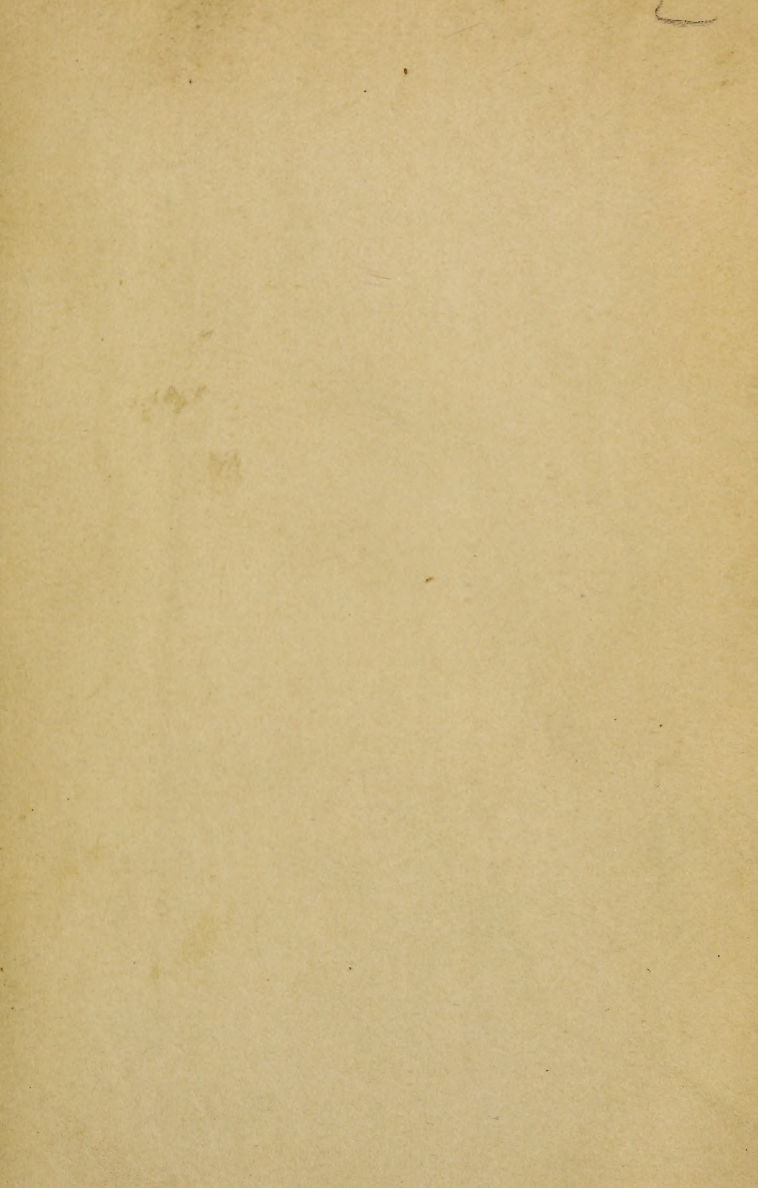


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MURRAY'S

HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS

NORTH WALES

1885



Bound with

SOUTH WALES

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS—CHIEF OBJECTS OF INTEREST—INNS AND HOTELS—MEANS OF CONVEYANCE—RAILWAYS—COACHES.

THE HANDBOOK TO NORTH WALES is intended to be a full and complete guide to all parts of that country. Yet a stranger on opening it is not unlikely to feel the want of a guide to the guide, a clue by which he may be enabled to use it successfully.

The Traveller's first question, what are the things *best worth seeing* in North Wales, and how may they be seen most easily? may be properly answered, not by a mere enumeration of a list of places, but by a few words of advice derived from personal knowledge of the wild and beautiful scenery of the land of Arthur, Merlin, and Owen Glendower. By pointing out in succession the *Centres* commanding objects of chief interest in each district, the Traveller may decide for himself not only which way to bend his steps, but where to sit down for a few days in his Inn and make excursions; or he may pass on from one centre to another, and thus combine them all into a Grand Tour of the Principality.

Strangers from the North will most conveniently enter Wales at Chester, by Lond. and N. Western Rly.; but if starting from Liverpool, they will find a steamer daily, in summer, to take them to Llandudno (in 3 hours) or to Beaumaris: those from the South can have no better approach than from Shrewsbury, taking the Gt. Western Railway by Rhuabon to

1. **Llangollen**, in itself an unattractive town, though the lofty ruins of Dinas Bran give a dignity to the background, commands the loveliest scenery of the Dee valley, above and below; E. to Chirk, the Viaduct and the Aqueduct; W. to *Valle Crucis*, the most elegant Gothic ruin in Wales, up the l. bank of the Dee by Berwyn Stat. and above *Llandysilio*, the loveliest reach of the Dee in Llangollen Vale. Over and above this no more comfortable quarters are to be found in this country than at the Hand Hotel, Llangollen, under the care of good Mrs. Edwards.

2. **Dolgelley**, situated on the skirts of Cader Idris, a mountain yielding only to Snowdon in height, and hardly to him in picturesqueness of outline, is surrounded by lovely scenery and pleasant excursions to the Torrent Walk, Cymmer Abbey, the Precipice Walk, the ascent of Cader Idris and descent to Tal-y-Llyn, Tyn-y-Groes, and the waterfalls, and above all, the Estuary of the Mawddach between Dolgelley and Barmouth, better seen from the road along its N. shore, or from the long wooden bridge at its mouth, than from the Railway on its S. shore.

This is a district to spend many days in. Unluckily the Inns are not of the highest order; but besides two at Dolgelley, there is a small one at Arthog, overlooking Mawddach, and two at Barmouth, and the small Inn at Tyn-y-Groes, beautifully situated, 6 m. N. of Dolgelley; so the visitor may shift his quarters and not be out of reach of Cader.

3. **The West Coast from Barmouth to Tremadoc**, traversed by the Cambrian Railway, commands exceedingly beautiful distant views inland of the mountain ranges, Rhinog Fawr, Diffwys, Llawllech, and especially of the group of Snowdon; so that although this route is usually followed merely as the quickest transit between the region of Cader Idris and that of Snowdon, it may be worth while to make halt at Harlech for the sake of its romantic castle and its glorious views of the mountains. The Castle Hotel is fairly good, and there is a more homely and moderate Inn.

4. **The Snowdon District**. The highest mountain in Wales is encircled, as by a natural fosse, by a series of deep valleys; on the N. by the Pass of Llanberis, the grandest and most solemn gorge in Britain, after Glencoe; on the E. by Nant Gwynnant; on the S. by Beddgelert and Aberglaslyn, all more or less distinguished as abounding in scenery of the highest order. Through these a good coach-road runs, and the circuit may be made in 7 or 8 hours by those who are in haste. The *Summit of Snowdon* can be approached from four different points in this circle; from Llanberis, from which is the easiest ascent, Capel Curig (*Gorphwysfa*), from Beddgelert, close to which is the grand defile of Aberglaslyn, and from the Snowdon Ranger Inn and Rly. Stat.

At all these places are Inns of first or second class. Those who reach the summit on a cloudless day "enjoy a scene impressively grand,

comprehending a large part of N. Wales, the whole of Anglesey, a fair glimpse of part of Cumberland, the Irish Channel, and perhaps a misty outline of the Irish coast. But what filled us with most delight and admiration were numerous lakes, which, like sheets of ice or polished silver, lay reflecting the rays of the sun in the deep valley at our feet."—*Geo. Borrow.*

4. **The Menai Strait from Conway and Beaumaris to Caernarvon**, that beautiful stretch of narrow sea dividing Anglesey from Caernarvonshire, has been compared with the more famous Bosphorus, the distant Snowdon range standing in place of Mt. Olympus. On the margin are Penmaenmawr and Bangor; behind which city opens out the grand gorge of Nant Ffrancon, near to the largest Slate Quarries in the world. On its margin stand the 3 most picturesque Edwardian feudal castles, Conway, Beaumaris, and Caernarvon, and it is crossed by those marvels of civil engineering, the Suspension and Tubular Bridges. As headquarters for exploring this district, the Penmaenmawr Hotel, at the Rly. Stat. close to the sea, the George Hotel, close to the Menai Bridge, near Bangor, and the Bulkeley Arms at Beaumaris may be recommended.

5. **The Vale of Festiniog**, including the lovely course of the Dwyryd from its head waters to the sea, is not only in itself beautiful, but is approached by a miniature mountain *Railway of narrow gauge*, which is itself a curiosity, and is at once perfectly safe and equally comfortable. The views which it commands are superb. The traveller has the option of stopping either halfway at Tan-y-Bwlch Hotel, close to Mr. Oakley's beautiful place, or at Maentwrog Inn; or of continuing through the slate quarries of Diffwys to Festiniog itself, where are Inns and waterfalls, and picturesque views for the sketcher, to detain visitors. The Inns at Tan-y-Bwlch, Maentwrog, Blaenau (N. W. Rly. Hotel) and Festiniog village are good.

6. **Bettws-y-Coed** is a quiet shady resting-place, one of the most agreeable in the Principality, surrounded by attractions for travellers. Although no mountain summits are visible from the village below, every height around leads to a fine view, or opens up a pleasant path, while the **Junction of the Three Rivers**, Conwy, Machno, and Lledr, 2 miles from the village, just under Telford's grand Holyhead Road, presents a combination of natural features *not to be surpassed in Britain* for picturesque beauty. To the artist these are an endless delight. But besides the general view of this beautiful scenery from the high road we dwell on the individual points which go to compose it—the Ffos Noddyn, the Conwy Falls, and those of the Machno at Pandy Mill.

Within a mile of Bettws the Lledr torrent unfolds its beauties above the Beavers' Pool, while in an opposite direction another lovely stream, the Llugwy, descends in the Swallow Fall; entering Bettws under its

ivy-clad bridge Pont-y-Pair:—Conway Castle is $\frac{1}{2}$ hr., Gwydir is 4 m., Trefriw and its waterfalls 6 m. by Rail, Capel Curig and Nant Ffrancon Pass, and Lakes Ogwen and Idwal, 6 or 7 m.

Hotels abound at Bettws; the Waterloo, excellent; Royal Oak (David Coxe's quarters for many summers), and the Gwydir Arms may be named with praise.

It will be observed that the above brief summary deals only with the most select scenery of N. Wales, that which may be regarded as characteristic of the country or peculiar to it. Thus it does not include the pretty vale of Clwyd, hitherto perhaps too much cried up, because its swelling hills more nearly resemble soft English scenes. The Lleyrn promontory, also, the Land's End of Wales, is passed over, because in that W. prolongation of the Caernarvonshire mountains they gradually decline in height, and present neither the commanding peaks nor the grand passes occurring in the E. part of the chain. The same with regard to the Isle of Anglesey, for the most part a flat and monotonous platform, little raised above the sea, except in the grand headland of Holyhead and the wave-beaten crags of the *South Stack*. Yet all these districts are fully described in the body of the Handbook in details sufficiently minute, it is hoped, to enable the traveller to explore them satisfactorily.

MEANS OF CONVEYANCE—RAILWAYS—COACHES.

A continuous belt of Railway encircles N. Wales, besides which several cross lines and branches, penetrating the mountains through and through, offer facile access to all the most interesting places. These lines are—

1. From Shrewsbury, N., to Chester, by Rhuabon and Wrexham. (Gt. Western.)
2. From Chester to Holyhead, by Flint, Rhyl, Conway and Bangor. (L. and N. Western.)
3. Bangor, by Caernarvon to Portmadoc. Cambrian Rly.
4. Tremadoc to Barmouth, by Harlech. Cambrian Rly.
5. Shrewsbury (Rhuabon) to Dolgelley and Barmouth, by Llangollen, Corwen, and Bala. (Gt. Western.)
6. Oswestry to Aberystwyth, by Welshpool and Newtown, with branches to Llanfyllin to Dinas Mawddwy, to Machynlleth (Corris), Aberdovey and Barmouth.

CROSS LINES RUNNING N. AND S.

7. Conway to Festiniog, by Llanrwst, Bettws-y-Coed, Dolwyddelan (L. and N. Western). Festiniog to Bala (Great Western).

8. Rhyl on the Dee to Corwen, by St. Asaph, Denbigh, and Ruthin.
9. Two short Railways from the W. coast of Caernarvon to Snowdon :
a, to Llanberis on the N. of the mountain; *b*, to Snowdon Ranger and
 Rhyd-du on the S. (Narrow Gauge Line.)
10. Portmadoc to Festiniog, by Tan-y-Bwlch, by the very remarkable *Miniature Railway*.
11. Chester to Denbigh and the Vale of Clwyd, by Mold (running E. and W.).
12. Bangor to Holyhead.
13. Gaerwen to Amlwch.
14. Wrexham to Buckley and Connah's Quay.
15. Bangor to Bethesda.

The Railway Companies, L. and N. Western and Gt. Western, offer inducements to travellers in Wales, by Circular and Tourist Tickets at reduced fares. See their summer Time-Tables and Programme.

INN ACCOMMODATION is abundantly provided for the Traveller in North Wales. Besides the Hotels in the larger towns enumerated in the following Routes, good wayside Inns of humble pretensions, but furnishing a clean bed and decent fare, will be found in most of the villages.

Post-horses are furnished by the larger Hotel keepers, as well as Cars and Waggonettes:— general charge, with one horse, 1s. a mile; driver or postboy expect 3*d*. a mile.

PEDESTRIANS.—There is no pleasanter way of exploring Wales than on foot, with occasional lifts along level ground in trains and coaches. We shall not insult the Pedestrian with instructions for his equipment. One hint only will we drop, viz., that the sheets of the admirable *Ordnance Survey* are a necessary companion for a Pedestrian in Wales rather than a luxury. They cost only 2s. a sheet; they may be made portable by cutting each sheet horizontally into 3, and folding it outwards, of a size to lie within the leaves of a small 8vo. volume.

II. PHYSICAL FEATURES OF N. WALES.

North Wales, consisting of the counties of Flint, Denbigh, Caernarvon, the isle of Anglesey, Merioneth, and Montgomery, presents varied attractions to the visitor, though none so powerful as the grand features of nature—the rivers, the mountains, and the sea. In Wales he may recruit himself in the tranquillity of the green valleys and salmon-haunted streams, by the waves that break under Penmaenmawr, or among the sheep-bells on the bare hill-side, on moorland solitudes so wild that a passing

crow makes an incident in the landscape, on the platform of Cader Idris, or where the Dee cleaves its separate way through the depths of Bala Lake. He will also find, if he pleases, many things capable of attracting and employing serious inquiry, and none more so than the apparently barren hills themselves, teeming with mineral riches and with productions of varied use, which increasing railway facilities make available for all parts of England.

For examining the physical features of North Wales it will be best to divide it into 2 great portions, lying respectively N. and S. of an imaginary line drawn from Portmadoc to Llangollen through Bala and Corwen, comprising the counties of Anglesey, Caernarvon, Denbigh, and Flint in the N. section, with Merioneth and Montgomery to the S.

A. The first may be roughly subdivided into 2 large groups, lying E. and W. of the Conwy river.

1. Commencing from the river Dee, near Hawarden, in Flintshire, we find a tract of high ground, running parallel with and overlooking the estuary. This tract, which has its highest points about Halkin mountain, runs in a general direction from N.W. to S.E., and is remarkable for its rich and valuable mineral treasures; to the W. of this broken region, and separated from it by the valley along which runs the Mold and Denbigh Railroad, rises the Clwydian range, a magnificent and continuous line of conical hills separating the vale of Clwyd on the E. from the adjacent county. They approach the sea near Diserth and Rhuddlan, and run nearly due S. to Llanarmon in Yale—that district which, according to the poet Churchyard,

“Hath hilles and mountaynes hye,
Small valleys there, save where the brookes do run.”

The principal eminence in this range is Moel Famau (1845 ft.). S. of Llandegla the uniformity of the chain is broken, and an irregular block of mountain, named Cŷrn-y-brain (1857 ft.), presenting many fine features, fills up the gap between Wrexham and Llangollen. The range of hills at Minera and the picturesque escarpments of the Eglwyseg rocks at Llangollen are in reality the outcrops of this mass of limestone. The rivers of the N.E. group are few. On the E. coast are the Holywell and Wepre brooks, while the circuitous Alyn, rising in the pretty valleys of Yale, meanders through the broken uplands of Flintshire, and finally, “to Dee most inly decre,” joins that river near Gresford.

2. The second of the N.E. group may be generally stated as occupying the country between the Clwyd, the Conwy, and the Dee as far as Bala. Although comparatively little visited, it contains scenery of a romantic character, especially towards the coast. Here it is marked by abrupt escarpments of mountain limestone, such as the Great and Little

Orme's Head and the Llysfaen Mountain. To these succeeds a large tract of well-wooded region, abounding in lovely dells, the watercourses of the Elwy, Aled, and Alwen—the 2 first of which find their way into the Clwyd, the latter into the Dee. All of them take their rise in the Mynydd Hiraethog, a long desolate range to the S. of the more fertile district, which, with its outliers, occupies a large part of Denbighshire. Bronbanog (1572 ft.) and Moel Eithin (1660 ft.) are the highest points. The dreary slopes on the S. are crossed by the Great Holyhead road between Bettws-y-Coed, Pentrevoelas, and Corwen. Between them and the imaginary line from Festiniog to Bala is another irregular group, filling up the space between the source of the Conwy and that portion of the Dee which runs through the vale of Edeyrnion. Of this group Carnedd-y-Filiast (the cairn of the she-wolf) (2127 ft.) and Moel-y-Darail (1934 ft.) are the loftiest heights, and give birth to the Geirw and a few smaller streams flowing into the Dee. On the eastern side of the Hiraethog the Clwyd takes its rise, and, after a short circuitous route, flows steadily, though it must be confessed rather sluggishly, to the N., past Ruthin, Denbigh, and St. Asaph, to join the sea at Rhyl. "Its banks are deep cuts in the deposited stratum of rich earth, with rare breaks down to fords or watering-places. Three days' rain up the valley will not bring the water to the brink of these banks, or increase the depth of the river; but a 4th wet day spreads it over acres of meadow, and a 5th marks the whole vale with a broad band of silver. The Elwy, on the other hand, has scarcely an acre of meadow to flood, but it becomes a torrent with a few hours' rain, and roars along its stony bed, breaking out here and there, but nowhere spreading far, even if charged with a week of water-spout."—*Cathrall*.

The southern boundary of the N.E. division is the valley of the Dee, which, issuing from the lake of Bala, flows with "silver clere" tide through the lovely vale of Edeyrnion to Corwen, and on by Llangollen and Overton into the broad alluvial plains of Cheshire.

B. The N.W. division is, with the exception of some isolated heights in Anglesey, almost entirely included in the county of Caernarvon, and embraces the finest of all Welsh scenery, as offered in the ranges of Snowdonia, called by some the Arvonian Alps. Its eastern boundary is the river Conwy, which, rising in the desolate and high table-lands of Migneint, soon flows due N. past Bettws-y-Coed and Llanrwst to Conway. For the first 8 or 10 m. of its course the boundary of this mountain region is more imaginary than real, as at this corner the connection between the N.W., N.E., and S.E. districts is nearly unbroken, although on travelling further westward we find that the division is again well marked between the N. and S. by the valley of the Dwyrdd and the wide estuary of the Traethmawr. As 7-10ths of this

district is the locale which attracts all tourists, it is better to subdivide it into groups formed by the principal masses of mountain, which are characterised by rugged precipitous escarpments and wild passes, instead of the wooded valleys and heathery slopes that mark the former district.

1. Travelling westward, the tourist first arrives at a triangular block of mountain, formed by Carnedd Dafydd (3427 ft.) and Llewelyn (3469 ft.), which on the N. spread their wide shoulders to the coast at Aber, ending in the mighty cliffs of Penmaenmawr. From their recesses the Afon Porthllwyd, Afon Ddu, Llugwy, and some smaller streams issue to join the Conwy, which forms the boundary on the E. Southwards they are suddenly brought up by the wild and deeply-cut pass of Nant Ffrancon. The principal lakes of this group are Llyniau Dilyn, Melynlyn, Crafnant, Cwllid, Geirionydd, Llugwy, Ogwen, with others of less size. The mountain tracks to these are easily found with the aid of the Ordnance Survey, and there is not one of them but will repay the visit.

2. Immediately opposite and to the S. of this group is a far more precipitous and savage range, dividing it from Snowdon. This is the Glyder Fawr (3275 ft.), the Glyder Fach (3235 ft.), and the Trifaen (3000 ft.), which are prolonged to the N. and N.W. by the side of Llanberis lakes, and on the W. side of Nant Ffrancon. It is in this latter portion that the great Penrhyn and Llanberis slate-quarries are situated. The gloomy character of this group is well supported by its 3 boundary valleys, viz. Nant Ffrancon, Nant-y-Gwryd, and the pass of Llanberis, best seen in descending it.

3. Directly opposite and separated only by this pass rises the great **Snowdon** group, symmetrically placed almost in the centre of Caernarvonshire. As it is fully described in Rte. 17A, a very brief mention is all that is here necessary. Its glories have ever been a fertile theme with all the writers and poets of N. Wales:—

“For Snowdony, a hill, imperiall in his seat,
Is, from his mighty foote unto his head, so greate,
That were his Wales distrest, or of his helpe had neede,
Hoe all her flocks and heards for many months coulede feede.”

Drayton's Polyolbion.

From the centre of the group Moel-y-Wyddfa rises in a sharp peak to the height of 2571 ft., sending off its subordinate ridges of Moel Eilio (2870 ft.) and Moel-y-Cynghorion on the N.W., Llechog and Yr Aran (2473 ft.) on the W., and Lliwedd on the S.E.—the whole forming a triangular series, of which the base is Nant Gwynnant, and the sides the Pass of Llanberis and the valleys of the Gwrfai and Colwyn respectively. It is in this Alpine district that the most beautiful *Lakes*

are met with—Llyn Gwynnant and Llyn Dinas, Llyn Cwellyn, Llyn-y-Gader, Llyn Llydaw, and the lakes of Llanberis. Nant Gwynnant and the Glaslyn river cut off this range from

4. The S.E. district, which may in some sense be considered a continuation of it. Here we have the great bulwark of Moel Siabod (2870 ft.), which is prolonged above the valley of the Lledr into an irregular though well-marked line of hills, terminated on the S. by the volcanic-looking peak of Cynicht (2372), and the more rugged Moelwyn (2566), in the eastern spurs of which mountain we find the large Festiniog slate-quarries. Still further, this range is again finely developed in the Manods and the Migneint hills, which give birth to the Conwy.

5. Immediately to the W. of Snowdon, and separated only by the valley of the Gwrfai, is another precipitous range, commencing on the Caernarvon side of Llyn Cwellyn, in the magnificent escarpment of Craig Cwm Bychan and Mynydd Mawr (2300 ft.), and thence running S. to Drws-y-Coed, where a deep pass runs up the Llyfni valley to the Nantlle lakes, to which a railway is now opened, and on to the head of the Colwyn. The continuity is carried southward by Mynydd Craig Goch (2358), and Moel Hebog (2850), which rises immediately from behind Beddgelert. From this point the mountains gradually decline in height until they finally end in the picturesque line of rocks overhanging Tremadoc.

6. The remaining hills of the promontory of Lleyrn are comparatively isolated, though presenting as fine scenic effects as any of the preceding. From Clynnog a series of round-topped eminences run S. towards Pwllheli. They are Gyrn Goch (1823 ft.), Bwlch Mawr (1673), and Moel Penllechog. Separated from them by the pass of Llanaelhaiarn are the singular heights of Yr Eifl (1886), which, for their magnificent rock scenery and prehistoric remains, are worthy of being visited oftener than they are. Rising directly above Nevin is Carn Boduan, and a little to the S. the still higher Carn Madryn (1205), both of which, from their comparative isolation, present splendid panoramic views of the adjacent country. These are the highest points in Lleyrn, although the general character of the promontory is that of elevated table-land, rising at Mynydd Rhiw to 1113 ft., and terminated all round the coast by tempest-riven rocks and precipices.

7. The only remaining portion of this division is Anglesey, which may be also described as a vast sheet of very uninteresting table-land, relieved here and there by rocky patches of mountain; consequently Anglesey is not a beautiful county, except in some few favoured spots. The most important hills lie in the neighbourhood of Red Wharf Bay and the Parys Mountain, near Amlwch, which appears, especially in

distant views, of greater height than it really is, from the general uniformity of the surface. The W. coast of Anglesey, which is seldom or never visited, contains coast scenery of a high order. At the extreme point of the island is the Holyhead Mountain, important in a picturesque as well as a commercial point of view.

C. The S.W. division may be bounded by the road from Festiniog to Bala on the N., and by that from Bala to Dinas Mawddwy and Machynlleth on the E. and S.E.

1. The most prominent group commences at Maentwrog and runs due S. past Harlech to Barmouth, parallel with and close to the sea-coast. Craig-drwg (2100 ft.), Rhinog Vawr (2463) and Vach, Diffwys (2412), and Llawllech, are the principal heights, which, rising ruggedly above their fellows, impart considerable grandeur to this range. The exploring tourist will find in the recesses of these mountains some of the finest scenery in the country, particularly in Glyn Arthro and Cwm Bychan. With the exception of the Arthro, scarce any river flows from the W. sides; but the opposite slopes, not so broken in character, give birth to the Eden and Camlan rivers, which, soon uniting with the Cain and Mawddach, flow towards Dolgelley through a valley remarkable for its rich beauty and the number of its waterfalls.

2. These two latter rivers rise in an irregular and confused mass of mountains, which, although of no great height on the W., gradually increase in size until they reach the watersheds of the Dee and the Wnion. Conspicuous in the southern portion of this district are Rhobell (2469 ft.) and Benglog (1844). As we travel northwards towards Bala we find the same group becoming more wild and lofty, until it reaches its culminating point in the Arennig Fawr (2809) and the Arennig Fach, which form some of the most striking features in Merionethshire scenery. From thence as a central point several streams, though none of any size, flow in different directions: the Cynfael and the Dwyryd to the W., the Cain to the S., the Lliw and the Tryweryn toward the lake of Bala; and we may also include the Conwy to the N., although it belongs more particularly to the foregoing divisions.

3. To the W. of this group, and separated only by the narrow ravines of the Dee and Wnion, rise majestically Aran Fawddwy (2955 ft.) and Aran Benllyn, a continuation of the same mountain, which, commencing in narrow spurs at the S. of Bala Lake, soon becomes one of the most savage of Welsh mountains, as it overhangs the valley of the Dyfi, in which Dinas Mawddwy and Mallwyd are situated. To the S. of the former place they again decline in importance as they approach Machynlleth, but to the W. they throw out a lofty range following the valley of the Cowarch, and soon uniting with

4. The **Cader Idris** mountain, which, like Snowdon, constitutes a group in itself. This glorious giant amongst hills takes a curious zigzag course to the S.W., and is characterised by the very limited extent of plateau at the summit and the fearful wall of precipices which it presents for the greater part of its course. It has 3 principal points, of which the Cader par excellence attains the height of 2914 ft.; so that this celebrated mountain does not found its pretensions so much on its height, which is exceeded by 7 others in N. Wales, as on its singular and unique position, form, and character. Towards the S.W. it throws out a series of broad wild hills to the coast at Llwyngwrl and Llanegryn; but to the S., after passing the deep vale of the Dysyni, we find again a very lofty chain which fills up the whole area to the Dyfi and Machynlleth. On the slopes of Taren-y-gesail (2224 ft.) and Mount Faden (1864) are the important slate-quarries of Corris. Towards Towyn and Aberdovey these hills gradually sink into low ranges covered with woodland.

D. The grand feature of the S.E. division is the *Berwyn Mountains*, which commence near Llangollen, and, winding to the S.W. past Corwen, Llandrillo, and Bala Lake, may be considered as terminating at the Pass of Bwlch-y-Groes. But as the road that runs up the pass is some 1200 ft. high, they may with more propriety be said to join the chain of the Arans. The character of these mountains is essentially different from most of those that have been hitherto discussed; instead of the lofty peak and savage precipice, we have a more uniform line, with rounded shoulders breaking off on each side and overlooking pastoral glens. Nevertheless there are some very fine and rugged cliffs on the S.E. side above Llanrhaiadr which equal anything in the country. The principal heights in this range are Moel Ferna (2050 ft.), Cader Ferwyn or Berwyn (2715), Cader Fronwen (2563), and Trim-y-Sarn (2027). With the exception of the Hirnant, but few rivers are given off on the N.; but on the S. the Tannat, the Vyrnwy, the Twrch, and the Banw soon become important streams, and water a large extent of rich farming country. In fact, the whole of the luxuriant champaign district as far as Welshpool, as well as the bleaker hills towards Carno, may be regarded as connected with the great chain of the Berwyns.

2. The valley of the Severn at once cuts off this district on the N. from the *Breiddin hills* (1199 ft.), that rise sharply up from out of the rich alluvial plains, and also from the Long Mountain (1330), which we may regard as the Welsh outskirts of a range of mountains occupying the borders of Montgomeryshire, Shropshire, and Radnorshire, in which latter county, near Newtown, they take the name of the Kerry Hills, and are prolonged E. to Bishop's Castle, S.W. to Llanidloes, and S. towards Builth.

3. The district to the W. of Llanidloes is entirely occupied by the unshapely mass of *Plinlymmon*, which, though properly a Cardiganshire mountain, enters sufficiently into N. Wales to influence some of its physical features very considerably. It is hard to say where to put a limit to the offshoots of *Plinlymmon*, though the valleys of the Clywedog and the Tarannon will probably serve best for the lines of demarcation. All the country between Machynlleth and Aberystwyth, Llanidloes and Llangurig, is occupied by it; and from the centre of it, indeed so near together that a single walk may embrace them all, flow the Rheidol, Severn, Wye, and Llyffnant. In this *résumé* of the Physical Geography of N. Wales there are, of course, numberless minor ranges and isolated hills, which it would be tedious to mention, but which will be found in detail under their respective routes.

III. GEOLOGY OF N. WALES.

The labours of Sedgwick and Murchison, and after them of the Geological Survey, of Ramsay, Hicks, Hughes and Bonney, have correlated and brought into connection the apparently confused geology of North Wales. Commencing with the uppermost strata, we find:

A. The *Trias*, or *New Red Sandstone*, for the whole distance between Shrewsbury and Chester, skirting the N. Welsh coal-field in the neighbourhood of Ellesmere, Oswestry, Holt, and Wrexham. It in fact constitutes the most westerly portion of the great belt of triassic strata that runs from Liverpool and the fertile plains of Cheshire into Worcestershire and the S. It is also seen in the vale of Clwyd, commencing at a point between Ruthin and Llandegla, and running up to Rhyl, where it extends each way along the coast at the foot of the hills of Diserth and Abergele. The trias is separated from the coal-field by

B. *Permian beds*, which skirt the coal-measures on the E. between Oswestry and Wrexham, as well as the northern border of the Shrewsbury field nearly as far as the Breiddin hills. They may be studied on the banks of the Dee, near Overton.

C. The *Coal-measures* extend in a strip of no great breadth from a little to the S. of Oswestry to the mouth of the estuary of the Dee in Flintshire, and are overlaid on the E. by Permian and new red sandstone, while on the W. they repose conformably on millstone grit and carboniferous limestone. In consequence of a great fault and upheaval of the last-mentioned rocks, there is a separation of the coal-field to the N. of the river Alun into the Denbighshire and Flintshire fields.

a. The former is about 18 m. in length and 4 in breadth, and may be divided into 3 series of nearly 3000 ft. in thickness. The upper series is comparatively worthless, being composed of sandstones, with a few thin beds of coal. The lower series, though of more value, is but little worked; but the middle beds, about 800 ft. thick, comprise all the valuable coals. There are 7 principal seams. The commercial importance of these beds will be alluded to in the sequel. So far as yet studied, the fossil remains of the N. Welsh field seem to resemble those of the S. Welsh and Lancashire fields, in its fish, while, as in them, the lower beds are full of marine remains, as *Aviculopecten* and *Goniatites*, &c.

b. The Flintshire fields are neither so extensive nor so productive; but, geologically speaking, they are interesting, as evidently forming part of the Lancashire measures, the intervening portion being covered over by the new red sandstone. The principal coal-seams, 6 in number, correspond pretty nearly with those of Denbighshire, although they are somewhat thicker.

c. The Anglesey coal-field is a very thin belt, stretching for 9 m. from near the Holland Arms Inn to Maldraeth Bay. The measures are overlaid unconformably by Permian beds, and repose on millstone grit and mountain limestone, which in their turn rest on crystalline or metamorphic schists. "The existence of this field is entirely due to an enormous fault, having at one point a downthrow on the N.W. of 2300 ft."—*Hull*. The coal-measures, with their accompanying sandstones, are 1309 ft. thick, and the seams themselves are 8 in number, ranging in thickness from 2 to 7 ft., the uppermost, or "Glopux" coal, attaining to 9 ft.

d. There are two very small patches of coal-measures, one on each bank of the Menai, near Caernarvon.

D. The *Millstone Grit* underlies the Denbigh and Flint fields on the W., constituting the broken uplands near Minera, Mold, Flint, and Holywell. The same occurs in the Anglesey field. It is succeeded by

E. The *Mountain Limestone*, to which a great portion of the picturesque scenery in Denbighshire is owing. A tract of considerable breadth commences on the N. coast of Flintshire, near Diserth, and accompanies the coal-measures and grit, which it underlies, as far as Llandegla. Southwards of that point it becomes narrower as it curves round to the E. in the Eglwyseg and Trevor rocks. Although there is here an hiatus, yet the limestone again appears in a still narrower band, and runs past Oswestry to Llanymynech, where it forms the beautiful escarpment of Llanymynech hill. Reverting again to

Diserth on the N. coast, we find that the Clwydian range of hills is formed of mountain limestone, which, turning sharp round to the S. of Ruthin, is found occupying the hills on the western or opposite side of the valley. Between Denbigh and S. Asaph they are strikingly developed in the Cefn rocks, and are thence carried northwards to Abergele and Colwyn, seemingly ending in the massive promontories of the Great and Little Orme's Heads; yet, although separated by the bay of Beaumaris, evidently continued in the limestone of Red Wharf Bay in the N.E. point of Anglesey. It is also observed forming a prominent belt on either side the Menai Straits on the E. from Bangor to a little below Port Dinorwic, and on the W. from Menai Bridge to Caernarvon. It is once more seen in Anglesey occupying a broad belt on the coast at Llanallgo and Moelfre Bay, from whence it runs S., gradually diminishing as it reaches and accompanies the coal-measures described before. Close to it, on the western border (the district immediately between the Clwyd hills and the limestone of the Mold district is occupied by a narrow prolongation of Wenlock shale), is a thin strip of

F. *Old Red Sandstone*, almost the only trace of it in N. Wales, which in this respect affords a marked contrast to S. Wales, where the old red is so largely developed.

G. The *Upper Silurian* is observable over large areas in the counties of Denbigh and Montgomery.

1. The Ludlow Rocks are only visible in the strata of the Long Mountain, near Welshpool, and on the southern border of Montgomeryshire, in the Kerry Hills. From thence they cover a wide district extending to Radnor, Hay, and Builth.

2. The Wenlock shale ranges from Conway and Abergele, on the N. coast of Denbighshire, over an irregularly-shaped area, to Llangollen. The picturesque country of the Elwy, Aled, and Alwen, lying between Llanrwst and Denbigh is of this formation, which near Llandegla sends up northward a thinner prolongation, lying unconformably between the carboniferous rocks of the Clwydian hills and those of Flintshire. It thus surrounds the vale of Clwyd like the rim of a basin. It is seen in large patches between Llanfyllin and the Banw river, and again between Llanfair, Guilsfield, and Welshpool on the N., and Montgomery, Newtown, and Bishop's Castle on the S., and on the eastern side of the Severn running up and surrounding the Ludlow rocks of the Long Mountain, until suddenly brought up by the Shrewsbury coal-field. S. of Newtown a thin prolongation is carried on towards Radnor Forest and

Llandrindod Wells. It is remarkable that in all this district there are no bands of Wenlock limestone.

3. Subordinate to these rocks and on their western border is a belt of conglomerates and grits, known as Denbigh grits, which follows closely the valley of the Conwy, becoming more extended in the neighbourhood of Cerrig-y-Drudion. S. of Corwen, where the Wenlock shale disappears, the Upper Silurian rocks are still represented by these grits, which connect the shales of Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire, and accompany them all the way southwards to Newtown and Radnorshire, themselves being underlaid by the Caradoc or Bala beds. The Denbigh grits are usually considered to be the sandy base of the Wenlock formation, and consequently of the Upper Silurian series.

4. Next below come the Tarannon shales, which occupy an intermediate space between the Pentamerus or Llandovery rocks and the Upper Silurian, although some geologists differ as to which class they ought to belong to. "They are of a hard, slaty character, in some places so pale or grey as to have been termed pale slates, in others of purple colour."—*Siluria*. They are principally and best exhibited in the district fed by the Tarannon river, between Llanbrynmair and Llanidloes. Fossils are rare. The Llandovery and Pentamerus rocks, which form so marked a feature in Caermarthenshire, are only seen to a small extent in the neighbourhood of Montgomery and Bishop's Castle.

5. The remainder of the Lower Silurian rocks, including the Caradoc or Bala, Llandeilo and Lingula formations, are so intricately connected, that they will be best understood if described together. In that western portion of Montgomeryshire through which the great igneous (though stratified) chain of the Berwyn mountains runs, we find that their eastern slopes are occupied by the slates of the Llandeilo age, which are blackish, of great thickness, and at one spot contain a limestone full of the characteristic fossils of the formation. They are well exposed in the gorge of the Tannat above Llanrhaiadr. These slates pass with much uniformity underneath the shelly sandstones of Caradoc or Bala formation, which are continued southwards into the vale of Meifod, and in a narrow strip along the Severn to Welshpool. "These rocks in the valleys of the Vyrnwy and Tannat have been affected by a transverse slaty cleavage." All this district is separated on the W. from the similar rocks of Merionethshire by the Wenlock shales and Denbigh grits before mentioned. If the traveller will carefully study a geological map of N. Wales, he will perceive various patches of igneous eruptive rocks standing out from amidst the great Lower Silurian formation. Beginning from the N., he will be able to trace the great rugged Snowdonian range from Penmaenmawr to Moel Hebog, above Tremadoc. Singular as it appears, this range "is composed of rocks which are the equi-

valents of the strata occupying the comparatively low-lying hills of the Bala district E. of Arennig." In other words, the lavas and volcanic ashes of this great chain were erupted in the Caradoc or Bala epoch. They will be mentioned again when speaking of the igneous rocks. To the W. of the flanks of this range we have, then, emerging from under these altered Caradoc strata, and much traversed by porphyries, Llandeilo beds, overlying the Lingula flags, beneath which again lie the great mass of Cambrian grits and slates which supply the quarries of Penrhyn and Llanberis. To the S. of Moel Hebog we have the same series repeated, with the difference that the Lingula flags at Tremadoc abut upon the great Merionethshire mass of Cambrian rock. Immediately on the E. of Snowdon is a narrow anticlinal axis of slate and sandstone, full of Caradoc or Bala fossils, which separates what may be called the great porphyritic basin of the Snowdon range from the minor basin of Dolwyddelan, of precisely the same age. "The fossiliferous calcareous ash in this valley is of Bala age, and the great mass of felspar porphyry that lies below it between Dolwyddelan and Yr Arddu is clearly connected with the same set of volcanic causes that produced the thin volcanic beds underneath the limestone at Bala."—*Ramsay*. The basin of Dolwyddelan is, in fact, an outlier of the Snowdon basin. Reverting to the map again, we see that to the E. of Tremadoc commences another singular chain of mountains, which extends in a wide crescent shape to the S., and is formed by Moelwyn, the Manods, the Arennigs, Rhobell Fawr, the Arans, and Cader Idris. Now, this great range of volcanic hills is of a considerably older date than the Snowdonian range. In fact, it was formed during the Llandeilo age, while the latter only dates from the Caradoc time.

On the western flanks of these mountains we find the Lingula flags, which, emerging from this interbedded igneous series of Llandeilo age, in their turn immediately lie upon the flanks of the great Merionethshire Cambrian boss.

"Down the Bala valley and along the course of the river Wnion, towards Dolgelley, there runs a great fault—a downthrow—to the N.W. and on its western side all the rocks of Cader Idris and the Arans are repeated. Thus from Penmaen to the Arennigs we have a repetition of the interbedded felspathic traps and ashes of the Arans, and underneath them the Lingula flags crop out beneath the W. sides of Arennig and the Cambrian strata of Dolmelynlyn and Trawsfynydd."

On the S.E. of Cader Idris and E. of the Arans are black slates of Llandeilo age far beneath the Bala limestone, which commences S. at Dinas Mawddwy, runs N. to Bala in broken lines, and from thence to Cerrig-y-Drudion, where it turns to the W. to Penmachno. This limestone is highly prolific in fossils similar to those found in Shrop-

shire, but is so impure that it is never used for burning. The whole country to the S. of Cader Idris and Dinas Mawddwy is formed of Caradoc sandstone, which imparts to the mountain ranges that rounded and somewhat monotonous outline which is so characteristic of the Montgomeryshire hills. The greater portion of the promontory of Lleyn is composed of Caradoc and Llandeilo rocks, interrupted by large patches of eruptive igneous mountains. In Anglesey a large tract of Llandeilo beds commences on the S. flanks of the Parys mountain, and runs S.W. immediately to the coast on the opposite side of the island, sending off a narrow prolongation to the N.W. coast opposite the Skerries. The typical fossils are tolerably abundant along this line.

6. The Cambrian rocks are very well defined and occur in 2 large patches, one of which is met with running parallel with the eastern coast of the Menai Straits. On the N.E. it commences between Bangor and Carnedd Llewelyn, and terminates at the sea near Clynog. "Between the Menai Straits and the E. flank of the Snowdon range we find huge buttresses of very ancient grit, schist, slate, and sandstone, having the same direction from S.S.W. to N.N.E., in which, though their sedimentary character is obvious, and though they have not been so much altered as in Anglesey, but one obscure fossil has been detected throughout a thickness of many thousand feet."—*Murchison*. These rocks are the equivalents of the Longmynd or Bottom rocks of Shropshire, and their commercial importance will be duly estimated as being the locale of the Llanberis and Penrhyn slate quarries. The second great mass of Cambrian rocks runs from Maentwrog by Harlech to Barmouth, filling up all the district between the coast and the Trawsfynydd road. This is the Merionethshire anticlinal line of Prof. Sedgwick, which, rising in an immense dome, throws off Lingula flags in all directions. Besides these well-defined areas, there are also large tracts in Anglesey, and a smaller one extending along the Lleyn promontory from Nevin to Aberdaron, of altered metamorphic rocks, generally known as the crystalline schists of Anglesey. For a long time they were considered to be of even older date than the Cambrian; but they are now recognised as the equivalents of it, "altered at one spot into chlorite and mica schist, at another into quartz rock, accompanied by most extraordinary flexures of the beds." These are well shown at the S. Stack Rocks at Holyhead Island.

7. The researches of Dr. Hicks and others have led to the discovery in Wales of rocks even older than the Silurian or Cambrian; probably as old as the Laurentian of Canada, now believed to be the most ancient on the globe. Dr. Hicks classes into 3 divisions, and names them: *a.* The *Dimetian*, the oldest being gneissic and granitoid rocks, the lowest. *b.* Compact felspathic and quartzose strata, some of them

old lavas, called *Arvonian*. c. The *Pebidian*, green schistose rocks, associated with volcanic breccias.

"The Pre-Cambrian rocks form nearly half of Anglesey. They occur between Bardsey Island and Nevin, on the W. side of the Lleyn Peninsula, and include the syenite near Festiniog, N. of Dolgelley and elsewhere. Their thickness is estimated at 18,000 ft. The so-called Mona marble, a beautiful green rock quarried near Holyhead, is a variety of serpentine. These Pre-Cambrian rocks are entirely destitute of fossils."—*Harrison*, 'Geology of the Counties of England and Wales.'

8. It only remains, lastly, to recapitulate the principal igneous rocks, whether eruptive or stratified. The Snowdonian range has been already mentioned as being principally of Caradoc age. "The strata, which constitute the lower part of Snowdon itself, and repose upon the older slates and Lingula flags, consist of dark bluish-grey slaty schists, representing the inferior part of the Llandeilo formation. They are traversed by masses of eruptive rock, consisting of porphyry and greenstone, or compact felspar or felstone. In the next overlying accumulations are many Caradoc fossils, although the original beds alternate rapidly with volcanic dejections of ashes and felspathic materials."—*Siluria*. Prof. Ramsay considers that most of the intruding bosses of greenstone, porphyry, and syenite, which traverse the rocks W. of the Snowdon chain and the great Merionethshire district of Cambrian rocks, &c., date about the close of the Lingula flag period, *i.e.* in the epoch of the Llandeilo rocks. The trap-rocks of Arennig, the Arans, and Cader Idris are of this date. A period of comparative repose succeeded, followed by those eruptions which produced the porphyries of Snowdon. "All these Snowdonian porphyries," he says, "are true lava-beds, accompanied by volcanic ashes of the same period."

Rhobell Fawr, near Dolgelley, is considered by Prof. Ramsay to be the largest mass of greenstone in Wales, "being more than 2 miles wide, rising in great broken and bare undulations to the very top, near which it is overlaid by a strip of highly porcelained slate."*

While examining the mountain-ranges of N. Wales, the geologist will keep his attention alive to the numerous traces of glaciers in the different valleys, which in many places are plainly visible in the shape of moraine heaps, blocs perchés, roches moutonnées, and striations. In Rte. 17 will be found a full account of these interesting phenomena, as observed by Prof. Ramsay and detailed in his interesting work on the 'Glaciers of N. Wales.' The Drift, too, is often to be seen,

* For further details the tourist should consult Prof. Ramsay's original Paper in the 'Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society,' vol. ix. p. 170; also a Panoramic Sketch of the Geology of Caernarvonshire and Merionethshire, by the same author, in the 'Geologist,' vol. i. No. 5.

“generally in its native state, consisting of clay, angular stones, gravel, and boulders; sometimes, as in Cwm Llafar, on the W. flank of Carnedd Llewelyn, arranged in terraces marking pauses in the re-elevation of the country. Shells were found by Mr. Trimmer on Moel-Tryfaen, near Nantlle, 1300 ft. above the sea, in sand and gravel, and again at about the same height, 2 m. W. of the peak of Snowdon, on a sloping plain of drift charged with erratic blocks, one of which, of great size, is known as ‘Maenbras,’ or the large stone.” For so much of the Geology of N. Wales as will serve the purpose of the general tourist, he may consult the Rev. W. Symonds’s ‘Records of the Rocks.’

IV. ANTIQUITIES—PREHISTORIC—OLD STONES—CASTLES—CHURCHES.

North Wales is particularly rich in early British remains, more especially in the *cromlech*, of which upwards of 28 examples are to be found in Anglesey alone. The most common form is that of a slab or table-stone, placed upon 3 or more upright supporters, and the generally received opinion is that they were sepulchral, although a few antiquaries still consider that they were erected for sacrificial purposes. A feature worth noticing in the geographical position of *cromlechau* in Wales is, that they are almost always found on elevated table-land overlooking the sea, but comparatively rarely inland or amongst the mountains. For instance, we shall find that 9-10ths of the Welsh *cromlechau* are grouped on the table-lands of Anglesey, Merionethshire, Caernarvonshire (Llwyn), and Pembrokeshire, nearly all commanding or contiguous to the coast.

The most perfect specimens in N. Wales are at Plas Newydd, Bryn Celliddu (evidently sepulchral), Bodowyr (the smallest known), Henblas (the largest), Llanallgo, and Presaddfed, in Anglesey; Capel Garmon, near Bettws-y-Coed, Cefn Amwlich, Dolbenmaen, Bachwen at Clynog, and several others on the same line of coast, in Caernarvonshire; and a group of at least 4 or 5 in the parish of Llanddwywe, near the railroad from Harlech to Barmouth. Many others have fallen victims to the utilitarian views of farmers and landowners, although the efforts of the Cambrian Archæological Association have doubtless saved some from destruction.* Besides the *cromlech*, we meet with the *bedd* or *grave*, which admits of no doubt as to the purposes for which it was constructed. In many of them the only trace of its former tenant remains in the name, which has been handed down by tradition; in some cases further marked by the addition of an upright *stele* or stone, or a

* The Transactions of this Society abound in interesting information on the Antiquities of Wales.

carnedd or heap of stones. Such examples may be found in the district of the Llyfni, near Clynnog, where an unusual number of heroes were buried. In other instances *cistvaenau*, or rude chests formed of stones, have been discovered, containing the funereal remains of the dead. These are found connected with *carneddau* or in a tumulus. As examples of the tomb may be cited that of Bronwen, on the banks of the Alaw, in Anglesey, from which a square *cistvaen* has been removed; Bedd Taliesin, near Aberystwyth; Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy, or the Graves of the Men of Ardudwy, near Festiniog; Bedd Porius, near Trawsfynydd, &c.

In contradistinction to the *carnedd* or *cairn*—which is nothing but a heap of stones piled up—is the barrow or *tumulus*, a large mound of earth usually heaped together either to commemorate some great battle, or, still more likely, to cover the ashes and serve as a vast funeral monument for those heroes who fell in the engagement. In some of these tumuli *cistvaens* have been found. As an instance of the sepulchral tumulus we may mention the Gop at Newmarket, in Flintshire, and the Capel Towyn, near Holyhead. There are others which instead of being sepulchral, appear to have marked the site of some building, as Owain Glyndwr's Mount, near Corwen; or the Tomen, which though generally looked upon as elevated mounds for defensive purposes, were also sometimes used as places of General Assembly or Moot Hills, as Tomen-y-Rhodwy, near Llandegla, in Denbighshire; Tomen-y-Bala, in Merionethshire, &c.

Before quitting the subject of sepulchral memorials we must not omit the *Inscribed Stones*,* upon which, with characteristic brevity, the name of the commemorated person is rudely sculptured. Many of these stones have been discovered in positions which they were evidently never intended to fill, such as watering-troughs, gate-posts, lintels of windows in churches and farm-houses. The principal of these are Eliseg's Pillar near Valle Crucis; the stone at Llanrug; the Lovernus stone at Llanfaglan; the stones at Llanor, near Pwllheli; the stones at Llangian, in Lleyn, and at Llanvihangel-y-Traethau, near Harlech; at Brondeg, in Anglesey; the Catamanus stone at Llangadwaladr ch.; the Culidorus stone at Llangefni; St. Cadfan's stone at Towyn; the Vinnemaglus stone at Gwytherin; the one at Llanerfyl, in Montgomeryshire. Other stones, which have some legend attached to them, are without any inscription, as Llech Idris, near Trawsfynydd; Maen Beuno, near Welshpool, &c. Lastly, we have the *Maen Iir*, or Long Stone, which was generally used to commemorate either some particular action or event, or else as a boundary-mark.

* See Prof. Westwood's "*Lapidarium Walliæ.*"—Clarendon Press.

The dykes or roads of N. Wales are of great importance, and, as regards the latter, are tolerably numerous.

Offa's Dyke was the great boundary-line, or line of demarcation, constructed, as is generally supposed, by the king of that name. Some antiquaries, however, are inclined to think that it was raised at an earlier period, and was only adopted by Offa. At several points the line of the dyke is crossed by Roman roads. Commencing on the N. coast of Flintshire, near Prestatyn, it runs S. in the direction of Mold, Minera, Rhuabon, Chirk, Selattyn, Llanymynech, soon after which it crosses the Severn to traverse the Long Mountain. From thence it runs past Montgomery to the high grounds of the Clun Forest, traversing the counties of Radnor, parts of Hereford and Gloucester, where it eventually terminates in the grounds of Sedbury Park, which overlook the Severn estuary. Running in a parallel line, though varying in distance from a few hundred yards to 3 miles, was *Watt's Dyke*, supposed by some to have been a second dyke constructed by Offa. It is neither so clearly made out nor so persistent as the former. It is probable that it commenced at the sea-coast near Basingwerk Abbey, from whence it ran S., past Halkin, Hope, the gorge of the Alyn, Wrexham, Wynustay (which was formerly called Wattstay from this circumstance), and Oswestry, finally disappearing in the flats to the N. of the Severn. It has been conjectured with great probability that the ground between the two dykes was neutral.

The *Roman Stations* were very important, and we are enabled to identify many of them accurately from their position, the roads leading to and from them, and the buildings and remains found at many of them. They were—

Segontium, or <i>Caer Seiont</i>	..	Llanbeblig, near Caernarvon.
Heriri Mons	.. .. .	Tomen-y-Mur, near Festiniog.
Conovium	.. .. .	Caerhun.
Deva	.. .. .	Chester.
Bovium	.. .. .	Bangor Iscoed.
Rutunium	.. .. .	Ruyton(?).
Uriconium	.. .. .	Wroxeter.
Maglona	.. .. .	Machynlleth or Pennal.
Mediolanum	.. .. .	Mathrafal, near Welshpool.
Varæ	.. .. .	Bodfari.

They are all described in the different routes, together with other places known to have been occupied by Roman forces, as Caersws, near Moat-Lane; Caergai, near Bala, &c. A Roman road can be traced in places (1) between Heriri Mons and Segontium, running past Beddgelert through Nant Gwynnant; (2) between Heriri Mons and Canovium, by Dolwyddelan, where the Sarn Helen road may be plainly traced running down Cwm Penamnaen; and again (3) between

the same stations down the valley of the Mawddach as far as Dolmelynlyn. Another Roman road may be followed from Canovium to Aber, through the pass of Bwlch-y-Ddeufaen (i.e., the "pass of the two stones," one of which is destroyed, while the other remains erect); but it is not unlikely that it was, in still earlier times, a British trackway. A probable continuation of the Sarn Helen is traceable over Cader Idris to Pennal, near Machynlleth. A road is said to have been at times uncovered on the sandy coast of Anglesey, from the so-called station of Caerleb to the ferry of Moel-y-Don; 4 or 5 roads are very distinctly marked from Caersws, radiating in different directions to the stations around: the one to the S. connecting the country of the Ordovices with that of the Silures, and running down to Caerfagu, near Penybont, in Radnorshire. Traces of early mining-works are not so common in N. as in S. Wales, which probably presented in its iron greater inducements. Nevertheless, the Romans have left their marks behind them, both in the copper-mines of the Orme's Head, near Llandudno, and at Llanymynech, near Oswestry.

Camps and earthworks are to be found throughout the whole of N. Wales, occupying nearly every available height, and testifying sufficiently to the offensive and defensive capabilities of the inhabitants. The largest and most perfect are Moel-y-Gaer, in Flintshire; Caer Gybi, camp at Porthamel, and Bwrdd Arthur, in Anglesey; Pen-y-Cloddiau, Pen-y-Gardden, Caer Drewyn, Pen-y-gaer near Cerrig-y-Drudion, and the camps on Moel Fenlli and the Clwydian Hills, in Denbighshire; Castell Caer Seiont, Dinas Dinorwig, Caer-carregyfran, Dinas Emrys, Dinas Dinlle, Tre'r Ceiri, Carn Madryn, Castell Odo, Porth Dinlleyn, in Caernarvonshire; Ffridd Faldwin, Moat, Gaer Fawr, Caer Digol, in Montgomeryshire. A common feature in the earliest hill-fortresses is the occurrence of *cyttiau*, or circular huts, erected for the convenience of the garrison. Tre'r Ceiri, on Yr Eifl, is the finest example of these.

Of *Castles** there is a "goodly store." The finest and most perfect were erected by Edward I. to ensure a complete mastery over his Welsh conquests, and, as a consequence, exhibit a strong likeness to each other in plan, the differences being chiefly in detail. Conway, Beaumaris, Caernarvon, and Harlech, are generally supposed to have been built by the same architect, viz. Henry de Elreton, and may rank as the 4 finest of N. Welsh fortresses. Besides these, there are Hawarden, Ewloe, Flint, Diserth, Rhuddlan, Dinas Bran, Denbigh, Dolwyddelan, Ruthin Bere, Criccieth, Dolbadarn, Castell Lleiniog, Dolforwyn, and Montgomery; together with the still inhabited castles of Shrewsbury, Powys, and

* The best guide to the castles of Wales is the laborious and accurate work of Mr. George Clark, 'Mediæval Military Architecture of England,' 2 vols. 8vo., 1884.

Chirk. The finest examples of town-walls in the kingdom may be seen at Chester, Conway, Caernarvon, and a fragment only at Shrewsbury.

Ecclesiastical.—N. Wales cannot boast any cathedral church at all equal to Llandaff or St. David's, or even—to descend a step lower—to St. John's priory church at Brecon. In fact, the 2 cathedrals of St. Asaph and Bangor are surpassed by many collegiate churches in size, grandeur, and detail. Nevertheless, they are both interesting, particularly the former, which, although plain, has a good effect from the massive appearance of the tower, which in that point is similar to the tower of Llanbadarn Vawr, near Aberystwyth. Both these have been restored. Of ruined ecclesiastical structures, the *Abbey of Valle Crucis*, with its delicate E. E. windows, is the gem of the country, both from its superior state of preservation and its exquisite situation. It has had, besides, the advantage of a careful restoration at the hands of zealous archæologists. It would be well if the same boon had been extended to Basingwerk Abbey (12th cent.), which, though not to be compared with the former, yet presents many good examples of the architecture of that period.

Of Cymmer Abbey, near Dolgelley, the remains are much smaller, though very suggestive; and of Llanddwyn, near Anglesey, there is only the bare shell.

The following churches will be found best worth visiting by the archæologist. The numbers denote the route: Mont. = Monument.

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|--|---|
| 4. St. John's, Chester—double row of triforium arches. | 12. Llanrwst—Gwydr Chapel (Perp.), Monts. and perfect roodloft. |
| 1. St. Mary's, Shrewsbury. | 11. Whitchurch — Monts. (Late Perp.). |
| 1. Abbey Church, Shrewsbury. | 3. Llangollen. |
| 1. Old St. Chad's. | 4. Conway—Roodloft and Monts. |
| 1. Actham—Norm. doorway. | 21. Ysppyty Ivan—Monts. |
| 1. Wroxeter—Mont. | 12. Llandegai—Mont. |
| 26. Oswestry. | 19. Beddgelert — Old Priory Ch., (E. Engl.) |
| 1. Rhuabon—Monts., fresco. | 15. Clynnog—Roof, tower, St. Beuno's Chap. |
| 1. Wrexham—Tower, apse, Mont. (Perp.) | 16. Aberdaron—E. window. |
| 1. Gresford—Mon. tower (Perp.). | 8. Beaumaris—Mont., carving, brass. |
| 4. Northop—Tower, effigies. | 7. Newborough. |
| 10. Mold. | 8. Llanestyn—(E. Perp.), font. |
| 10. Cilcain—Roof. | 7. Aberfraw. |
| 11. Llanarmon—Mont.; chandelier. | 8. Llanvihangel—Pulpit. |
| 11. Llanfwrog—Arcades. | 8. Llanallgo. |
| 11. Ruthin—Roof, brasses, Mont. | 8. Llanwenllwyfo—Brass. |
| 11. Llanrhaiadr—Window. | 8. Llanddyfnan—Sculpture. |
| 11. Efenechtyd—*Wooden font. | 7. Holyhead—Sculpture. |
| 7. Cerrig Ceinwen — Font, 12th cent. | 7. Llangadwaladr—Windows. |
| 7. Llanvair-y-Cwmmwd—Font, 12th cent. | 7. Llangwyfan. |

- 7. Penmynydd—Mont.
- 24. Llanaber—E. Engl.
- 24. Llanddwywe—Mont.
- 25. Towyn—Norm.
- 25. Llanegryn—Screen.
- 25. Llanvihangel-y-Pennant—Monts.
- 3. Llanwehllyn—Mont.
- 4. Llanasa—Stained glass.
- 27. Kerry—Norm. Monts.
- 27. Welshpool—Mont.
- 27. Guilsfield—Roof, restd.

- 26. Meifod—Norm. sculptd. stone.
- 27. Newtown—Old screen in Modern church.
- 27. Llanidloes—Roof, pillars of Mont.
- 26. Pennant Melangell—Screen.
- 26. Llanyblodwel.
- 8. Penmon—Priory (church restored), Norm.
- 7. Bodelwyddan—Modern.
- 2. Hanmer—Roof, Mont.

Together with churches we may associate holy wells and crosses. Wells are very common throughout the country, though in many cases they have fallen into neglect and disuse, so that the rules which guided the devotees are now traditionary. The religious estimation in which they were held is shown in the Holy Well of St. Winifred and the Ffynnon Wigfair, near St. Asaph, both good examples of Late Perp. architecture. Crosses are comparatively rare. Specimens occur at Newmarket (Maen Achwynfaen, 12th cent.), Penmon, Llanvihangel, Tre'r Beirdd, and Llanfair Mathafarneithaf, in Anglesey, Derwen near Ruthin, &c.

Caernarvonshire and Anglesey abound in examples of old domestic architecture, many farmhouses presenting perhaps the only traces of a good old Welsh family which has died out: Mostyn Hall; Pengwern, near Llangollen; Tower, near Mold; Gloddaeth, near Llandudno; Bodowen, Plas Penmynydd, Plas Coch, and Henblas, in Anglesey; Corsygedol, near Barmouth; Plas Mawr and the College at Conway; Bodwrda, near Aberdaron; Bodidris, near Wrexham; Rhiwgoch, near Trawsfynydd. In the county of Montgomery are several fine specimens of the black and white timber-house of the 16th century, viz., Lymore Hall, Trelydan Hall, and Llandinam Hall.

V. GLOSSARY OF WELSH PLACE NAMES.

With the Welsh language this Handbook does not propose to meddle; yet a glossary of words which occur generally in the names of places will not be inappropriate, and the traveller will add, perhaps almost insensibly, to the sources of his interest and amusement, if he carries with him a good Welsh dictionary, and the Church-service in Welsh, with the English on the opposite side. The children of Gomer have spoken this speech from their beginning, and in the names of places it marks their passage yet through many lands. London (Llyndin), "the city of the wide water;" Dover (Dwfr), "the water;" Winchester, "the white city," and many others, are ancient British names. The first word in this short glossary ("aber") we meet with across

the Channel in Havre, with “*cefn*” in the Cevennes, with “*pen*” in the Apennines; and the list might be extended greatly.

Aber, a confluence or junction of a smaller river with a greater, or into the sea.

Afon, a river.

Allt, a steep cliff, ascent.

Bach, or, by mutation, *Fach* or *Vach*, small, little.

Banau, eminences.

Bedd, a grave.

Bettws, a station in a vale, perhaps a mission station.

Blaen, the head of a valley.

Bôd, a dwelling.

Bryn, a hill.

Bwlch, a pass or defile.

Bychan, little.

Cader, a chair, a seat.

Cae, an enclosure.

Caer, a fort, a camp.

Capel, chapel.

Carn, a heap, a cairn.

Carnedd (pl. *Carneddau*), heap of stones.

Carreg, stone.

Castell, a fortress.

Cefn, a back, a ridge.

Clawdd, a dyke, hedge, embankment.

Clogwyn, a precipice.

Coch, red.

Coed, wood.

Cors, bog.

Croes, cross.

Cwm, a glen, dingle.

Cymmer, confluence.

Dinas, a fortified hill, a city.

Dôl, a meadow by the side of a river.

Drws, a door or pass.

Dû, black.

Dwr or *Dwfr*, water.

Dyffryn, valley.

Eglwys, church.

Esgair, a leg.

Fawr or *Vawr*, great.

Ffrwd, a spout of water.

Ffynnon, well, spring.

Gaer, same as *Caer*.

Garth, a projecting spur.

Glan, shore, bank.

Glas, blue, green.

Glyn, a glen.

Gwern, a watery meadow, alder-trees.

Gwyn, white.

Gwyrdd, green.

Hafot-tai, summer farms.

Hafod, a summer residence.

Hén, old.

Hir, long.

Llan, an enclosure, hence a churchyard or church.

Llech, a flat stone.

Llwyn, a grove.

Llwyd, grey, brown.

Llyn, a lake, pool.

Maen, stone.

Maes, field.

Mawr, or, by mutation, *Fawr*, great.

Melin, mill.

Melyn, yellow.

Moel, a bare head, a conical smooth hill.

Morfa, a sea-marsh.

Mynach, a monk.

Mynydd, a mountain.

Nant, a brook, dingle.

Newydd, new.

Pandy, a fulling mill.

Pant, a hollow.

Pen, a head, top.

Penmaen, rock end.

Pentref, a hamlet.

Pistyll, a broken waterfall.

Plas, a hall, a country seat.

Pont, a bridge.

Porth, a gate.

Pwll, a pool.

Rhaiadr, a rushing cataract.

Rhŷ, an ascent.

Rhûdd, purple.

Rhôs, moist place.

Rhyd, a ford.

Sarn, a causeway.

Tal, the forehead.

Tafarn, tavern.

Traeth, a sand, seashore, strand.

Tre, *Trêf*, a town.

Twr, a tower.

Tŷ (pl. *Tai*) a house.

Tyddyn, a farm.

Y, *Yr*, the.

Ym, in.

Yn, in, at.

Ynys, island.

Yspytty, hospital.

Ystrad, vale formed by a river.

VI. POINTS of INTEREST for the GEOLOGIST.

(Vide Introduction and Routes.)

VII. COMPARATIVE HEIGHTS of NORTH WELSH MOUNTAINS.

	Feet.		Feet.
Snowdon	3571	Rhydd Hywel	1898
Carnedd Llewelyn	3469	Llandinam Mountain	1895
Carnedd Davydd	3427	Yr Eifl	1866
Glyder Vawr	3275	Mount Faden	1864
Glyder Vach	3235	Cyrn-y-Brain	1857
Trifaen	3000	Moel Fammau	1845
Aran Fawddwy	2955	Benglog	1844
Cader Idris	3000	Gyrn Goch	1823
Moel Siabod	2870	Moel Morfydd	1767
Moel Eilio	2870	Bwlch Mawr	1673
Moel Hebog	2850	Moel Eithin	1660
Arennig Vawr	2809	Bronbanog	1572
Cader Berwyn	2716	Penmaenmawr	1540
Moelwyn	2566	Cader Dinmael	1452
Aran	2473	Long Mountain	1330
Rhinog Vawr	2463	Carn Madryn	1205
Diphwys	2412	Breiddin Hills	1199
Cynicht	2372	Mynydd Rhiw	1113
Craig Goch	2358	Llanellian Mountain	1110
Mynydd Mawr	2300	Moelfre Isaf	1037
Taren-y-Gesail	2244	Carn Pen Tyrech	950
Carnedd Filiast	2127	Garreg Mountain	835
Craig Drwg	2100	Orme's Head	750
Moel Ferna	2050	Gwaunysgor	732
Moel-y-Darail	1934		

VIII. CHIEF PLACES of INTEREST to the TOURIST.

Those which are best worth seeing are marked with asterisks.

1. SHROPSHIRE.

Shrewsbury. Castle. *School, old, now containing **Antiquarian Museum, with the articles found at Wroxeter. **St. Mary's Ch. Timbered Houses. Drapers' Hall. Market-house. **The Abbey Ch., Pulpit, and Monastic Remains. Town Walls. Clive's Monument. *The Quarry. Welsh and English Bridges. *Hill's Monument and view from the summit. Atcham Ch. **Wroxeter Ch. and Roman city of Uriconium.

Baschurch. Camp at Berth Hill.

Whittington. *Castle. Park Hall.

Ellesmere. Ch. *View from Castle Hill.

Oswestry. Well. Ch. *Old Oswestry. Castell Brogyntyn in Brogyntyn Park. Offa's and Watt's Dykes.

2. CHESHIRE.

Chester. ** Cathedral. Chapter H. Abbey Gateway. ** St. John's Ch. and Monastic Remains. St. Peter's. Castle. Shirehall. * Roodie and Grosvenor Bridge. ** Rows. * Stanley Palace. Bishop Lloyd's House. * God's Providence House. Roman Bath. ** Walls. * Phoenix and Water Towers. Guildhall. Museum. * Eaton Hall.

3. DENBIGHSHIRE.

Llanbyblodwell. Ch. Llangedwyn Hall.
Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant. ** Pistyll Rhaiadr. Camp at Dwy'n Bryn Dinas.
 ** *Chirk.* Castle and view from Terrace. Viaduct and Aqueduct. Glen of the Ceiriog.
Ruabon. * Ch. and Monuments. * Wynnstay. * Nantybelan. Garden Hill.
Wrexham. ** Ch. Bangor. Holt Cas.
Gresford. * Ch. Vale of Alun. Rofft Camp.
Llangollen. Ch. * Bridge. ** Plas Newydd. Pengwern. * Castell Dinas Bran. ** Valle Crucis Abbey. Eliseg's Pillar. Scenery of Eglwyseg Rocks and Cyn-y-brain. ** Valley of the Dee. At Berwyn Stat. and Llandysilio Ch. Llandegla Ch. Bodidris. Llanarmon in Yale Ch. (chandelier).
Pentrevoelas. Inscribed Pillar. ** Pont y Glyn. * Ysppyty Ivan Ch. Monts., Gilar. Plas Iolyn.
Llanrwst. Cromlech at Capel Garmon. ** Ch. and Gwydir Chapel. High Bridge. Gwydir House and Grounds.
Llanrhaiadr. * Ch. Jesse window. Bachymbyd.
Denbigh. ** Castle. Burgesses' Gate. Earl of Leicester's Ch. * Whitechurch. Salusbury Tomb and Myddelton Brass. Remains of Carmelite Priory (the Abbey). St. Mary's Ch., new. Grounds of Gwaenynog. * Ch. at Trefnant. Bwrdd Arthur, near Llansannan. Scenery of the Aled. * Waterfalls. Llyn Aled.
Ruthin. * Ch. Cloisters. School. Castle. Mill. Llanfwrog Ch. Efenechtyd Ch. Antiquities in Pool. Camps on Moel Fenlli. * View from Moel Fammau.
Gwytherin. Ch. Box of St. Winifred. Inscribed Stones.
Abergele. Ch. Camps. Kinnel Park. Gwrych Castle. Llysfaen Mount. Llanellian Well.

4. FLINTSHIRE.

St. Asaph. * Cathedral. * Cefn Caves. Kist-vaens near Cefn. * Well at Wigfair. * Ch. at Bodelwyddan. Monument in Tremeirchion Ch. Rom. Cath. College. Camp at Bodfari. Talargoch Lead-mines.
Rhuddlan. * Castle. Ch. Priory. Bodrhyddan. Diserth Castle. Siambr Wen.
Rhyl. Sands. St. Thomas' Ch. Towyn Ch. Gwaunysgar Ch. Newmarket Cross and Tumulus.
Pantasa. Roman Catholic Ch. * Pharos on Garreg Mountain. Maen Achwynfan.
Mostyn. * Hall. Downing. Point of Air Lighthouse.

Holywell. Ch. **Well. *Basingwerk Abbey.
Fliut. *Castle. Haikin Mountain. Moel-y-gaer. *Northop Ch.
 Ewloe Castle. **Hawarden* Castle and Ch. ***Mold* Ch. *Maes
 Garmon. *Tower. *Caergwrle Castle. Hope Ch. (monument).
 ***Cileuain* Ch. *Hesp. Alyn. Penbedw.
Cierwys. Roman streets.
Overton. *Views over the Dee. Ch. and Cemetery Chap.
Holl. Ch. and Castle.
Hammer. Ch. Village and Mere.

5. CAERNARVONSHIRE.

Conway. *Ch. **Castle. *Walls. *Plas Mawr. Tubular Bridge.
 Gyllin Ch. View from hill above Benarth. *Castell Diganwy.
 *Falls of the Porthllwyd and Afon Ddu at Dol-y-garro.
 Llyn Gwriorydd. Caerhun. Cyttiau on Penmaen Bach.
 Maes-y Castell.
Llandudno. **Great Orme's Head; drive round it. St. Tudno's
 Ch. Gogarth. Bodysgallen. Gloddaeth. Penrhyn Chap.
 Llandrillo-yn-rhos. Ch.
Penmaenmawr. Castell Caer Seion. Braich-y-ddinas.
Aber. **Waterfalls. Ancient road to Caerhun. Bryn newydd.
Bangor. *Cathedral. *Penrhyn Castle. Port Penrhyn. *View
 from hill behind the town. *Llandegai Ch. and village.
 **Penrhyn Quarries.
 ***Mencai Bridge.* **Tubular Bridge.
Port Dinorwic.
Caernarvon. **Castle. *Twthill. *Walls. Inscribed Stone at Llan-
 rug. *Llanbeblig Ch. Site of Segontium. Inscribed Stone at
 Llanfaglan Ch. Antiquities on banks of the Gwrfai.
Clyanog. *Ch. S. Beuno's Chap. Cromlech. Waterfall. *Dinas
 Duille.
Nantlle. *Lakes. *Drws-y-Coed. Copper-mines and Slate-
 quarries.
Porthelli. *Beach. Carreg-y-Wimbill. Coast scenery at Mynydd
 Cilan. *Llanengan Ch. and Screen. Inscribed Stone at Llan-
 glau. *Carn Madryn. Carn Boduan. Bardsey Island. *Aber-
 idaron old Ch. Bodwrida. *Llangwnadl Ch. *Cefn Ynwleth
 Cromlech. *Neriu.* Porthdinllaen. **Yr Eidi. *Tre'r Ceiri.
 *Nant Gwrtlleym.
Abererch. Ch.
Cricieth. *Castle. Dolbenmaen and Cromlechs.
Tremadoc. Penmaelfa Ch. *Portmadoc Ribankment and Slate-
 wharf. View behind Goat Inn.
Boddyfelen. Ch. **Pont Aberglaslyn. *Moel Hebog. *Dinas
 Emrys. *Llyn Dinas and Llyn Gwynnant. *Llyn Gwellyn.
 Nant Mill.
 ***Snowdon.* **Pass of Llanberis. *Waterfall of Ceunant Mawr
 *Llanberis old Ch. *Slate-quarries. *Dolbadarn. Caer-carreg
 y-fran. Camps. *Nant Gwynnant. *Llyn Llydaw.
Capel Cery. *Moel Siabod. Glyder Fawr. Trifael. **Llyn
 Idwal. **Llyn Ogwen. **Falls of the Ogwen. Carnedd
 Dafydd and Llewelyn. Nant Ifancm. Bettws-y-Coed.

Pont-y-Pair. **Rhaiadr-y-Wenol. *Ffos Noddyn. **View from Holyhead Road. **Falls of the Conwy. Falls of the Machno. Pandy Mill. *Lledr Valley. *Dolwyddelan Castle.

6. MERIONETHSHIRE.

Corwen. *Ch. (Effigy of Sulien ap Iorwerth). Moel Ferna. Caer Drewyn and Cefn Creini. Rug. Waterfall on the Trystion. **Vale of Edeymion. *Llandderfel Ch. and Screen.

Tan-y-Bwlch. **Mr. Oakley's Grounds. **Slate-quarries of Festiniog. *Moelwyn. *Cynicht. *View from Festiniog Ch. Beddau Gwŷr Ardudwy. **Falls of the Cynfael. **Rhaiadr Cwm. Castell Tomen-y-Mur.

Maentwrog. *Rhaiadr Du. *Raven Fall.

Bala. *Lake. Arennig Mountains. Llanuwchllyn Ch. and Effigy. Caergai. Roman station. *Aran Mawddwy. **Cwm Twrch. *Pennant and Vale of Dyfi. Vale of the Hirnant.

Barmouth. **Llanaber Ch. **Scenery of the Mawddach, from Dolgelley Road. Long Railway Bridge. Panorama View.

Harlech. **Castle. Llandanwg Ch. *Llanddwywe Ch. *Llanbedr. *Cors-y-gedol. *Vale of the Artro. **Bwlch-y-Tyddiad. *Drws Ardudwy. **Cwm Bychan. Antiquities on Llawllech. Llanfihangel-y-Traethau Inscribed Stone.

Dolgelley. *Cymmer Abbey. **Torrent Walk in grounds of Caerynweh. **Cader Idris. **Valley of the Mawddach. *Nannau. Precipice Walk. Tyn-y-Groes. **Falls on the Cain, Mawddach, and Camlan. Bedd Porius. Rhiwgoch. Castell Prysor. **Dinas Mawddwy. *Mallwyd.

***Tal-y-Llyn.* **Llyn-y-Cae. Llanvihangel-y-Pennant Ch. (monument). Castell-y-Bere. *Craig Aderyn. *Llanegryn Ch. Llys Bradwen. Camps near Llwyngwrl.

***Towyn* Ch. and Stone. *Aberdovey. Corris Slate-quarries. Pennal (Roman traces).

7. MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

Llanfyllin. Ch. Camps in the neighbourhood. Llantsantffraid Ch. *Meifod Ch. Remains at Mathrafal (Mediolanum)?

Castell Caer Einion. Camps on Pen-y-foel. Ffridd, Sylvan.

Gwilsfield. Ch. and Camps, esp. Gaervawr.

Welshpool. *Ch. **Powys Castle and Park. Leighton Hall and Church. Buttington. Font in Ch. **Breiddin Hills and Rodney's Pillar. Long Mountain. Caer Digol. Offa's Dyke. Berriew. Maen Beuno.

Montgomery. *Ch. and Castle. Ffridd Faldwyn Camp. *Lymore Park.

Newtown. *Old Ch. *Screen in modern Ch. Kerry Ch. Castell Dolforwyn. Bettws Cedewain.

Llanbryn-mair. *Waterfalls. Scenery of Twymyn and Ial.

Caersŷs. *Roman Station. Llandinam Ch.

Llanidloes. **Ch. Cefn Carnedd Camp. Source of the Severn *Plinlimmon.

****Machynlleth.** *Waterfall on Llyfnant. *Llyn Penrhiaidr.
Llyn Bugeilyn.
Llangynog. Berwyn Mountains. ****Pennant Melangell Ch.** Scenery
of the Tannat.

8. ANGLESEY.

Beaumaris. ****Castle.** *Church. *Baron Hill. *Llanfaes Ch.
and remains of Priory. ****Penmon Priory.** *Puffin Island.
Llaniestyn Ch. *Bwrdd Arthur. Pentraeth. Castell Lleiniog.
*Lord Anglesey's Monument. *Penmynydd Ch. and Monas-
tery. *Antiquities at Llanidan. *Cromlech at Plas Newydd.
Llanddwyn Abbey. *Newborough Ch. Stone at Bron Dêg.
Llangefni Ch. ****Llangadwaladr Ch.** (stained glass). Llyn
Coron. *Bodorgan Gardens. *Aberffraw Ch. *Llangwyfan Ch.
Holyhead. ****Harbour of Refuge and Quarries.** Port and Pier.
****Telegraph Station.** *Caer Gybi. ****Stack Rocks and Light-**
house. ****Ch.** Stanley embankment. Towyn y Capel.
Llanerchymedd. Ch. Rocking-stone at Llwydiarth.
Llantrisant. Tomb of Bronwen. Cromlech at Presaddfed.
Amlwch. *Port. ****Parys Mountain.** Copper-works and Mines.
Llanbadrig. Llan Lleiana. *Coast Scenery at Cemmaes. Llan-
elian Ch. and Well. *Llanwenllwyfo Ch. and Brass. Point
Lynas Lighthouse. ****Llanalligo Ch.** (grave of persons drowned
in the wreck of the 'Royal Charter'). *Moelfre Bay
Cromlech. Llaneugrad. Pigeon-house.

IX. SKELETON ROUTES.

A. TOUR OF ONE MONTH,

starting from Chester.

1. Chester: see Rows, Walls, Cathedral. In afternoon to Eaton Hall by road or water.
2. Rail to Holywell: see Well and Basingwerk Abbey; go on to Rhyl: see Rhuddlan; sleep at Rhyl.
3. Excursion to Denbigh by rail. Drive back to St. Asaph by way of Cefn, and, if time, to Abergele by Bodelwyddan. Take train in evening from Abergele to Llandudno.
4. Gt. Orme's Head. Llandudno. Afternoon, see Castle and town of Conway.
5. By rail to Bettws-y-Coed. Explore its beautiful neighbourhood.
6. To Capel Curig by coach. Ascend Moel Siabod.
7. Llyn Ogwen, Llyn Idwal, Penrhyn Slate Quarries. From Capel Curig the coach, en route for Bangor, will pass these places.
8. Bangor Cathedral. Penrhyn Castle and Llandegai Ch. Aber.
By rail to Bethesda Slate Quarries.
9. Menai Bridge and Britannia Bridge.
10. Excursion to Beaumaris and on to Penmon Priory and Puffin Island.
11. Excursion by rail to Holyhead.

12. Rail from Holyhead to Caernarvon—Castle and town. In afternoon to Llanberis.
13. Ascend Snowdon and down to Beddgelert. In evening excursion up Nant Gwynant or Drws-y-Coed.
14. Beddgelert: by coach to Port Madoc (passing Pont Aberglaslyn), and on by rail to Criccieth and Pwllheli.
15. To Nevin. Ascend Yr Eifl. Visit Clynnog Ch., and in afternoon back to Caernarvon.
16. By coach from Caernarvon, by rail to Llanberis. By coach up the Pass, Capel Curig. Pentrevoelas, Corwen, and by rail to Llangollen. Ascend Dinas Bran.
17. By rail to Chirk and Rhuabon (Wynnstay); back to Llangollen.
18. Visit Valle Crucis and Llandysilio. By rail to Corwen. Through the Vale of Edeyrnion to Bala.
19. Bala by Rail to Trawsfynydd and Tomen-y-Mur to Festiniog. Rhaiadr Cwm. Falls of the Cynfael. Slate-quarries. Tan-y-Bwlch.
20. Festiniog by Toy rail and Minffordd Junct. or Portmadoc to Harlech. Visit Cwm Bychan; in evening to Barmouth.
21. Barmouth to Dolgelley. Visit Cymmer and Valley of the Mawddach.
22. Ascend Cader Idris. Visit the Torrent Walk. Precipice Walk.
23. Dolgelley to Tal-y-Llyn and Towyn.
24. Towyn to Aberdovey by rail. On by rail to Aberystwyth.
25. Aberystwyth. Devil's Bridge. Hafod, if time.
26. Aberystwyth by rail to Machynlleth, and thence by the Cambrian Railway to Cemmaes Road, whence there is a short branch line to Dinas Mawddwy, about a mile beyond Mallwyd, on the opposite side of the Dyfi.
27. From Dinas Mawddwy by rail to Welshpool. Powys Castle and Breiddin Hills, or excursion to Montgomery.
28. Welshpool to Shrewsbury. Visit the Churches, &c.
29. Excursion to Wroxeter. In afternoon leave Shrewsbury.

B. TOUR OF SEVEN WEEKS,

commencing at Shrewsbury.

1. Shrewsbury. Visit town. Afternoon to Wroxeter.
2. By rail to Chirk and Llangollen.
3. See Valle Crucis Abbey and Plas Newydd. Ascend Dinas Bran.
4. Chester. Cathedral, &c. Afternoon, Eaton Hall.
5. Excursion by rail to Mold. Visit Ch.; Tower. Drive or walk through Northop to Flint, and back by rail.
6. Visit Holywell by rail. Basingwerk. Mostyn Hall or Downing to Rhyl.
7. Excursion by rail to Rhuddlan. Diserth. St. Asaph and Denbigh. Visit Cefn Caves en route.
8. By rail to Ruthin. Ch. Cas. Derwen. Return by rail to Rhyl.
9. By rail to Abergele, Colwyn, and Llandudno. Great Orme's Head.
10. By rail to Conway; steamer to Trefriw, thence to Bettws-y-Coed.
11. Bettws-y-Coed. Conway and Machno Falls.

12. Penmaenmawr. Aber Waterfall. In evening to Bangor.
13. Cathedral. Penrhyn Castle. Slate Quarries of Bethesda.
14. Excursion to Dinas Dinorwic and Pentir.
15. Excursion to Beaumaris via Menai Bridge. See Tubular Bridge. Sleep at Beaumaris.
16. Excursion to Penmon. Puffin Island. Pentraeth.
17. From Menai Bridge by rail to Gaerwen Junction, and thence by rail to Amlwch. See Parys Mountain.
18. To Holyhead by rail. See the new Breakwater. The Head and S. Stack.
19. Visit Llangadwaladr Ch. Aberffraw, Newborough, Llangwyfan, and across the ferry to Caernarvon.
20. Caernarvon. Afternoon to Llanberis. Slate Quarries.
21. Ascend Snowdon and down to Capel Curig.
22. Capel Curig. Moel Siabod. Bettws-y-Coed. Fairy Glen. Dolwyddelan as.
23. Visit Llyn Ogwen. Llyn Idwal. Ascend Carnedd Llewelyn. Pass of Llanberis.
24. Nant Gwynant. Beddgelert. Ascend Moel Hebog.
- 25 to 27. By coach to Portmadoc, ascend Moel y Gest, and on by rail to Criccieth and Pwllheli.
28. Excursion into Lleyn. Aberdaron or Carn Madryn.
29. To Nevin. Ascend Yr Eifl. Clynnog Ch. Sleep at Clynnog.
30. To Nantlle Lakes, from Pen-y-Groes Station, and thence to Beddgelert.
31. To Tan-y-Bwlch. Festiniog. View from Ch.-yard. Waterfalls.
32. Slate Quarries. Afternoon by Toy railway to Minffordd Junct., and thence to Harlech.
33. Excursion to Cwm Bychan and Bwlch-y-Tyddiad.
34. Visit Llanaber. Barmouth. Llanelltyd and Dolgelley.
35. Visit Mawddach Valley. Waterfalls. Nannau. Precipice Walk.
36. Cader Idris. Torrent Walk.
37. By rail to Bala. Vale of Edeyrnion. Corwen. And by rail to Llangollen.
38. Valle Crucis. Castell Dinas Bran. Plas Newydd.
39. To Oswestry. Llanfyllin. Llanrhaiadr.
40. Pistyll Rhaiadr. Llangynog. Pennant Melangell. Over the Berwyns to Bala.
41. By Bwlch-y-Groes to Dinas Mawddwy, Mallwyd.
42. Mallwyd, and up the Ceryst to Tal-y-Llyn, Llanegryn, and Towyn.
43. To Aberdovey and Aberystwyth.
44. Aberystwyth. Hafod. Devil's Bridge.
45. Plinlimmon.
46. To Llanidloes. See Ch. By rail to Newtown. Visit Kerry by rail.
47. Visit Montgomery. Cas. Ch. Lymore. Afternoon to Welshpool.
48. Breiddins. Powys Castle. Excursion to Guilsfield.
49. To Shrewsbury.

The Sundays should be spent at Rhyl for St. Asaph, Bangor, Caernarvon or Llanberis, Beddgelert, Barmouth or Dolgelley, Bala, Welshpool.

C. PEDESTRIAN TOUR OF ONE MONTH,

commencing at Rhuabon Station.

1. Arrive at Rhuabon. Walk to Llangollen. Visit Aqueduct and Castell Dinas Bran.
2. Walk to Valle Crucis. Climb the hill at the back, and follow the path to Craig Aderyn, and thence to the turnpike-road at Bwlch Rhiwfelyn, and on to Ruthin; about 17 m.
3. Ruthin. Ascend Moel Fammau from Bwlch-pen-Barras, descending by Llangynhaval, and on to Denbigh; 14 m. (rail to St. Asaph and back by Cefn, if time).
4. Denbigh to Llanrwst, through Llansannan and Gwytherin, across the valleys of the Aled and Elwy; 18 m.
5. Visit Llanrwst. Gwydir. Take coach to the Waterfalls and walk to Conway, or else walk to the Falls and coach to Conway, and on to Llandudno.
6. Walk to Penmaenmawr and Aber Falls; about 19 m. By rail to Bangor.
7. Rest.
8. To Menai Bridge; Beaumaris. In afternoon, walk to Penmon and Puffin Island; 16 m.
9. Return to Bangor by ferry. Visit Penrhyn Quarries, and over Carnedd Filiast to Llanberis; say 12 m.
10. Llanberis to Capel Curig. Ascend Moel Siabod.
11. See Rhaiadr-y-Wenol. Miner's Bridge. Bettws-y-Coed. Dolwyddelan Castle; and back to Capel Curig by the short route; 18 m.
12. Ascend Carnedd Davydd. Visit Llyn Idwal, and over the hill to Llanberis. About 12 m.; but very heavy work.
13. Ascend Snowdon, and come down to Beddgelert; 11 m.
14. Rest.
15. Walk through Drws-y-Coed and Nantlle to Clynnog; about 16 m. In evening to Caernarvon, or else take the train from Pen-y-Groes.
16. Walk or take coach to Beddgelert. Ascend Moel Hebog, and down on the other side to Pwllheli.
17. Ascend Yr Eifl, and back by Nevin.
18. By coach to Tan-y-Bwlch. Slate Quarries. Waterfalls.
19. By Cwm Bychan to Harlech and on to Barmouth.
20. Rest.
21. To Dolgelley. Visit Waterfalls in Mawddach Valley.
22. Cader Idris. Descend to Llyn-y-Cae and Tal-y-Llyn.
23. From Tal-y-Llyn to Machynlleth; 11 m.
24. To Mallwyd and Dinas Mawddwy; 13 m. by car. But it may be accomplished by rail via Cemmaes Road.
25. Ascend Aran Mawddwy, through Bwlch-y-Groes to Bala; 20 m.
26. Over the Berwyns to Llanrhaiadr. See Pistyll Rhaiadr; 16 m.
27. To Llanfyllin. Meifod. Guilsfield. Welshpool.
28. Rest.
29. Breiddin Hills to Shrewsbury.
30. Wroxeter.

D. ANTIQUARIAN AND ECCLESIOLOGICAL TOUR OF ONE MONTH.

1. Chester Cathedral. Old Houses. Rows. St. John's. Walls.
2. Mold Ch. Tower. Maes Garmon. Ewloe Castle. Northop Ch. Flint Castle. To Holywell.
3. Holywell. Basingwerk. Garreg Mountain. Tumuli at Orsedd. Maen Achwynfan. Gop. Tumulus. Diserth Castle and Ch. Go on to Rhyl.
4. Rhuddlan Castle and Priory. St. Asaph Cathedral. Trefnant New Ch. Ffynnon Wigfair. Denbigh.
5. Denbigh Castle, Priory, &c. Whitechurch. Llanrhaiadr Ch. Ruthin Ch., Cas., and Mill.
6. Camps on Clwydian Hills. Cilcain Ch. Llanrhydd Ch.
7. Llandegla Ch. Tomen. Eliseg's Pillar. Valle Crucis Abbey. Castell Dinas Bran.
8. Llangollen Ch. Corwen Ch. Pentrevoelas Inscribed Stone. (Ysppyty Ivan Ch.) Cromlech at Capel Garmon. Llanrwst. Pen-y-Gaer.
9. Llanrwst Ch. Bridge. Gwydir. Cromlechs. Caerhun. Conway.
10. Conway. Llandudno. Antiquities on Orme's Head. Castell Diganwy.
11. Antiquities on Penmaenmawr. Aber.
12. Bangor. Llandegai. Dinas Dinorwic.
13. Beaumaris Ch. Castle. Castle Lleiniog. Penmon.
14. Penmynydd. Antiquities on the Braint. Plas Newydd. Cromlechs. Newborough.
15. Llangadwaladr Ch. Aberffraw. Llangwyfan Ch. To Holyhead.
16. Caer Gybi. Holyhead Ch. Towyn-y-Capel. To Caernarvon.
17. Castle. Walls. Segontium. Llanfaglan. Inscribed Stone.
18. Clynnog. Tre'r Ceiri. Llanaelhaiarn Stone. Pwllheli.
19. Llangian Ch. Llanengan Ch. Aberdaron Ch.
20. Llangwnadl Ch. Cefn Amwlech Cromlech. Carn Madryn. Back to Pwllheli.
21. Criccieth. Dolbenmaen. Beddgelert.
22. Excursion to Llanberis. Dolbadarn.
23. To Festiniog. Sarn Helen. Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy. Heriri Mons. Tomen-y-Mur.
24. Harlech. Bwlch-y-Tyddiad. Drws Ardudwy.
25. Llanaber. Barmouth. Dolgelley. Cymmer Abbey.
26. Llwyngwrl Camps. Towyn Ch. Castell-y-Bere.
27. Pennal. Machynlleth. Aberystwyth. Llanbadarn Vawr Ch.
28. Llanidloes Ch. Caersws. Site of Roman Station.
29. Montgomery Ch. and Castle. Camps. Welshpool.
30. Powys Castle. Mathrafal. Meifod. Oswestry.
31. Rhuabon Ch. Whittington. Wrexham. Gresford Ch.

E. A FORTNIGHT'S TOUR,

arriving at Llandudno or Beaumaris from Liverpool by Steamer.

1. Llandudno. Conway Castle. Beaumaris. Baron Hill. Tubular Bridge. Menai Bridge. Bangor.
2. Penrhyn. Slate Quarries. Nant Ffranon. Llyn Idwal. Llyn Ogwen. Capel Curig.
3. Bettws-y-Coed. Rhaiadr-y-Wenol. Falls of Conwy and Machno. Llanrwst. Gwydir. Ascend Moel Siabod.
4. Capel Curig. Pass of Llanberis. Ascend Snowdon. Caernarvon.
5. Caernarvon to Beddgelert.
6. Tremadoc. Tan-y-Bwlch. Slate Quarries. Festiniog. Falls.
7. Harlech. Barmouth to Dolgelley.
8. Mawddach Valley Waterfalls. Cymmer. Precipice Walk.
9. Cader Idris. Torrent Walk.
10. To Machynlleth, and from thence to Mallwyd.
11. Mallwyd to Bala and Vale of Edeyrnion to Corwen. Pont-y-glyn.
12. Llangollen. Berwyn Stat. Valle Crucis. Pont Cysylltau.

F. A WEEK'S WALK THROUGH SNOWDONIA.

1. Llandudno. Conway. Aber. Visit Waterfalls. Ascend Carnedd Llewelyn. Descend to Capel Curig, or by Bwlch-y-Ddeufaen to Caerhŷn.
2. Over Moel Siabod to Dolwyddelan, and cross by Llyn-yr-Adar into Llyn Gwynant, and to Beddgelert.
3. Snowdon. Descend to Llanberis. Evening to Caernarvon.
4. To Clynog. Ascend Yr Eifl. Descend to Pwllheli.
5. By rail to Criccieth. Ascend Moel Hebog, and descend to Beddgelert.
6. To Tan-y-Bwlch. Ascend Moelwyn. Festiniog Waterfall. Slate Quarries.
7. Walk from Festiniog to Bala. Take rail to Rhuabon.

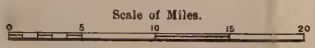
G. TOUR OF ABOUT THREE WEEKS, BY RAIL OR COACH.

The names of halting-places are in italics.

Shrewsbury. Chirk. Rhuabon.
Llangollen. Dinas Bran. Valle Crucis. Berwyn Stat. and back.
Dolgelley. Cymmer Abbey. Torrent Walk. Precipice Walk. Cader Idris. Tyn-y-Groes Waterfall. To Barmouth; by road on N. bank of Mawddach Estuary.
Harlech Castle. Portmadoc.
 [N. Wales.]



RAILWAY MAP
OF
NORTH WALES.



ABERYSTWYTH CARDIGAN

Devils Bridge

Plinlimmon

Llanidloes

Dolwen

Newtown

Bishops Castle

Church Stretton

MONTGOMERY

Shropshire

Minsterley

Condover

Dorrington

Harton

Craven Arms

Wem

Whittington

Rednall

Llynchys

Kinnerley

Shrawardine

Leaton

Hadnall

Yorton

Wem

Ellesmere

Ellesmere

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HANDBOOK

FOR

NORTH WALES.

ROUTES.

* * The names of places are printed in **black** only in those routes where the places are described.

ROUTE	PAGE	ROUTE	PAGE
1. <i>Shrewsbury</i> to <i>Chester</i> , by <i>Rhuabon</i> and <i>Wrexham</i> [<i>Holt - Gresford</i>] — <i>Great Western Rly.</i>	2	12A. <i>Bettws-y-Coed</i> to <i>Bangor</i> , by <i>Nant Ffrancon</i> and the <i>Slate Quarries</i>	93
2. <i>Whittington Junct.</i> to <i>Whitchurch Junct.</i> , by <i>Ellesmere</i> — <i>Rail</i>	16	12B. <i>Bettws-y-Coed</i> to <i>Festiniog</i> , by <i>Dolwyddelan</i> — <i>L. & N. W. Rail</i>	97
3. <i>Rhuabon Junct.</i> to <i>Dolgelley</i> , by <i>Llangollen</i> , <i>Corwen</i> , and <i>Bala Lake</i> — <i>Rail</i>	18	13. <i>Bettws-y-Coed</i> to <i>Corwen</i> , by <i>Pentrevoclas</i>	98
3A. <i>Dolgelley</i> to <i>Barmouth</i> — <i>Rail</i>	30	14. <i>Bangor</i> to <i>Tremadoc</i> , by <i>Caernarvon</i> and <i>Afonwen Junct.</i> — <i>Rail</i> — <i>The Nantlle Lakes</i>	100
4. <i>Chester</i> to <i>Bangor</i> , by <i>Flint</i> , <i>Rhyl</i> , <i>Abergele</i> , <i>Conway</i> , [<i>Llandudno</i>], <i>Penmaen-mawr</i> , and <i>Aber</i> — <i>Rail</i>	31	15. <i>Caernarvon</i> to <i>Pwllheli</i> , by <i>Clynnog</i> — <i>Road</i>	105
5. <i>Abergele</i> to <i>Denbigh</i> , by <i>Bettws</i> and <i>Llanfair Talhaiarn</i> — <i>Pedestrian</i>	52	16. <i>Pwllheli</i> to <i>Bardsey Island</i> , by <i>Nevin</i> and <i>Aberdaron</i>	108
6. <i>Conway</i> to <i>Llandudno</i> and the <i>Orme's Head</i>	53	17. <i>Caernarvon</i> to <i>Capel Curig</i> , by <i>Llanberis</i> , <i>Pass of Llanberis</i> , to <i>Gorphwysfa</i>	110
7. <i>Bangor</i> to <i>Holyhead</i> , by the <i>Menai Bridges</i> — <i>Rail</i> ; the <i>Menai Straits</i>	56	17A. Ascent of Snowdon	115
8. <i>Bangor</i> , by <i>Menai Bridge</i> , to <i>Beaumaris</i> , <i>Penmon</i> , and <i>Amlwch</i> , the <i>E. Coast of Anglesey</i>	67	18. <i>Capel Curig</i> or <i>Llanberis</i> to <i>Beddgelert</i> , by <i>Nant Gwynnant</i>	121
9. <i>Gaerwen Junct.</i> to <i>Amlwch</i> , by <i>Anglesey Central Rly.</i>	71	19. <i>Caernarvon</i> to <i>Portmadoc</i> , by <i>Beddgelert</i> , <i>Pont Aberglaslyn</i> and <i>Tremadoc</i>	123
10. <i>Chester</i> to <i>Ruthin</i> and <i>Denbigh</i> , by <i>Hawarden</i> and <i>Mold</i> — <i>Rail</i>	74	20. <i>Portmadoc</i> , or <i>Minfford Junct.</i> to <i>Festiniog</i> (<i>Difflwys</i>), by <i>Tan-y-Bwlch</i> and the <i>Narrow Gauge Rly.</i> — <i>Moelwyn</i>	129
11. <i>Corwen</i> to <i>Rhyl</i> , by <i>Ruthin</i> , <i>Denbigh</i> , and <i>St. Asaph</i>	78	21. <i>Bala</i> to <i>Festiniog</i> , by <i>Rhydy-fen</i> and <i>Maentwrog</i> — <i>Gt. West. Rail</i>	131
12. <i>Conway</i> to <i>Bettws-y-Coed</i> , and <i>Festiniog</i> , by <i>Trefriw</i> , <i>Llanrwst</i> , <i>River Conway</i> and <i>Rail</i>	88	21A. <i>Festiniog</i> to <i>Penmachno</i> and <i>Yspytty Iwan</i>	133
		22. <i>Festiniog</i> to <i>Dolgelley</i> , by <i>Trawsfynydd</i> , the <i>Vale of the Mawddach</i> , and <i>Tyn-y-Groes</i>	134

ROUTE	PAGE	ROUTE	PAGE
22A. Dolgelley to Towyn, by Tal-y-Llyn, Corys, and Machynlleth	138	25A. Towyn to Tal-y-Llyn, Cader Idris, and Dolgelley . . .	153
23. Dolgelley to <i>Dinas Mawddwy</i> by Road, and to Cemmaes Road Junct.—Dinas Mawddwy to Bala . . .	139	26. Oswestry to Machynlleth, by <i>Llanfair and Malloyd</i> . .	154
24. Caernarvon or Pwllheli to Dolgelley, by Criccieth, Portmadoc, <i>Harlech</i> , and Barmouth— <i>Cambrian Rail</i> .	141	26A. Bala to Oswestry, by Llandrillo, <i>Llanrhaiadr</i> , and the <i>Fall of Pistyll Rhaeadr—The Berwyns</i>	159
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ROUTE 1.

SHREWSBURY TO CHESTER, BY RHUABON AND WREXHAM [HOLT-GRESFORD]—GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

Shrewsbury, capital of Shropshire, is a borough town sending 2 representatives to Parliament. Pop. 24,000. (*Inns*: Raven, belongs to a Limited Co.;—Lion; George, comfortable; all good.) Wales may well be approached by the Severn-girded Shrewsbury, one of the most beautiful and still among the most important of the frontier towns. Here converging railways place the traveller in immediate communication with all parts of the Principality, whose border he may cross forthwith, or skirt for a long distance, as his taste directs or convenience serves.

The *Railway Station*, a handsome Tudor building near the Castle, stands in a picturesque position, and

is entered by a bridge over the river which winds below it, with the spires of St. Mary and St. Alkmund crowning the height on l. The square red tower seen rt. from the end of the platform is that of the Abbey ch.

From the station the chief objects of interest in the town may be conveniently visited in a short time. Quitting the station, under the Castle wall, and turning up the street, you first pass rt. the old *Grammar School*, see p. 5. Opposite it, a picturesque half-timbered Gatehouse is the sole remaining fragment of the Council house, seat of the Lords President of the Marches of Wales.

The Post Office stands at the corner of St. Mary's Street, in which is St. Mary's Ch., and pursuing it you descend Wyle Cop to the English Bridge, the Abbey Ch., and Stone Pulpit. If you continue straight on past the Post Office, and take the first street on the l., you reach the *Market Place*.

Shrewsbury is a corporate town, possessing various ancient charters from the time of William I. to James II., and continues to give the title of earl to the lineal descendants of the great John Talbot, who was brought

to be buried at Whitechurch (Rte. 2) from the field of Châtillon.

It is situated on a peninsula of rising ground, encircled by the Severn on all sides but the N., and locally termed "the Island:" in fact, so nearly do the windings of the river approach each other, that the isthmus is only 300 yards in breadth.

The main entrances are by 2 *Bridges* on the E. and N.W., called respectively the English and Welsh Bridges. The former, reached by the street called *Wyle Cop*, erected in 1769, at a cost of 15,000*l.*, is a handsome structure of 7 arches; it is remarkable for the height of the central arch, which allows the great volume of water brought down in rainy weather to pass. The Welsh Bridge, the "reddie way" to Wales, has little remarkable.

The Castle stands on the isthmus, and is conspicuous from its lofty position, "buite in such a brave plott that it could have espyed a byrd flying in every streete," and from the deep red colour of the buildings, though its architecture, except in some of the outer walls, is modernised. The original was mostly destroyed in the Civil Wars. Its present proprietor is the Duke of Cleveland. It contains nothing remarkable. The turret in the garden, overlooking the river, and first meeting the eye of the stranger as he arrives at the station, was built by Telford, for Sir W. Pulteney, his early patron, and former proprietor of the place. It commands a prospect, embracing the blue ridges of the Wrekin; the South Shropshire hills, along whose valley and sides went the tide of the last struggle of Caractacus, the beautiful Breiddin, "hills of the robbers," in the mother tongue, but now tenanted by small farms, and surmounted by a pillar in honour of Lord Rodney's victory, with the Berwyns and the Welsh

ranges rising in terraces to the W. Nearer to the N. and E. are the more modest eminences of Grins-hill, famous for its stone quarries, Hawkstone, and Haughmond, under which the battle of Shrewsbury was fought, rising from a rich and well-watered country.

The *Town Walls* were first commenced by Roger de Belesme, son of Earl Roger de Montgomery, and were afterwards finished by Henry III. to protect the inhabitants from the incursions of the Welsh. A small portion only remains on the S. side of the town, in good preservation, and forms a terrace walk, by which the *Roman Catholic* cathedral may be reached. Here also is a square *Tower* of 2 stories with narrow loops of the same date, the only one remaining out of 20 which formerly strengthened and defended the walls. The fortifications were for the most part destroyed in 1645, when the town yielded to the Parliamentary troops under Gen. Mytton.

There are two very interesting **Churches**, particularly that of *** St. Mary*, a noble pile of building in the centre of the town, whose lofty spire (220 ft.) serves as a landmark for many a mile around. It is a cruciform ch., of various styles of architecture, and consists of a nave of 4 bays, side aisles, chancel, transepts, 2 chantry chapels, and a vestry built 1884. The basement of the tower is Norm., as are also the S. and N. porches of the nave and the doorways of the N. and S. transepts, which are ornamented with lozenge and chevron mouldings. The E. Eng. style is visible in the beautiful lancet windows of the transepts. Those of the clerestory are Dec., as are also the painted windows in the S. chapel, filled with glass, and the large one of 8 lights at the end of the chancel. The spire is octagonal. Internally, semicircular arches separate the nave from the

aisles, springing from elegant clustered columns. Similar arches open from the aisles to the transepts and also to the chapels. The ceiling is oak, beautifully fretted and carved with flowers and figures. The choir arch is surmounted by a sort of triforium. The Choir of 2 bays is early pointed, with an open arcade on rt. leading to S. chapel. In the nave is a decorated pulpit of Caen stone: its sculptures represent incidents in the life of Christ.

One of the chief beauties of the ch. arises from the profusion and excellence of its old *stained Glass*. The large E. window (which once belonged to the Franciscan Friary, the gift of Sir John de Charlton, circ. 1350) represents the genealogy of Christ from the Root of Jesse, showing the patriarch reclining in sleep, while from his loins a stem ascends, enclosing in each of its branches a king or prophet belonging to the series, which numbers altogether 47 figures. There is a lancet window of old German glass on the N. side of the altar, with scenes in the life of St. Bernard; and a 3-light window of the Crucifixion on the N. side of the baptistery. In the N. transept is a fine organ by Byfield, 1729, and a modern window to the Rev. J. Blakeway, to whom a dec. altar-tomb has been erected close by. In the S. transept is a memorial window to Rev. W. Rowland, formerly vicar and a munificent restorer of this ch. The Trinity Chapel contains a mutilated cross-legged knight on an altar-tomb of the 14th cent., supposed to be the effigy of one of the Leyburnes, Lords of Berwick; and a monument in marble by *E. H. Baily* to Dr. Butler, head-master of the school and Bishop of Lichfield. There is also one by Westmacott to Brig.-Gen. Cureton, who fell in an engagement with the Sikhs in 1848, within the tower, and a brass to officers and

men of the 85th Regt. killed in Afghanistan. In the baptistery are monuments to Hen. Stafford and wife, 1463, and to Admiral Benbow, a native of the town. St. Mary's Church was originally collegiate, having a dean and 9 canons, and at its suppression the revenue was given by Edward VI. for the maintenance of Shrewsbury school.

A short distance S. is *St. Alkmund's Ch.*, of stuccoed brick, erected 1794, retaining only the tower and spire of an older ch.

The small portion which remains of Old St. Chad's was rebuilt in 1571, and is now used as a chapel for the cemetery, which contains the graves of some of the most distinguished Salopian families.

New St. Chad's, on a height, built 1792, at the head of the Quarry Avenue, is chiefly remarkable for the very questionable taste of the architectural details. The body of the ch. is circular, at the E. end of which is a Doric portico and tower, which might easily cause the building to be mistaken for a theatre or exchange. It contains some stained memorial windows, and a monument to the memory of the soldiers of the 53rd (or Shropshire) regt. who fell at the battle of Sobraon.

A short way beyond the English Bridge, and on the other side of the Severn, is the venerable Benedictine **Abbey* of SS. Peter and Paul, whose mitred abbots sat in the House of Peers before the Reformation, in interest and beauty scarcely surpassed by St. Mary's. The W. or parochial portion forms the *Ch. of the Holy Cross*. It was formerly a large cruceiform ch., having a central as well as the present W. tower; but the E. portion was destroyed at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, while part of the clerestory fell at a subsequent date. The basement of the tower is Norm.; the remainder being Dec. with a

magnificent Perp. window, surmounted by a rich crocket and finial. Above it, and between the 2 bell-tower windows, is a niche containing the statue of a mailed knight, supposed to represent Edward III. On the N. side is a porch of 2 stories, with mullioned windows, nearly flat-arched. A great deal of restoration has taken place in this ch., particularly at the E. end and in the S. aisle. The nave is separated from the side-aisles by 5 arches, 2 of which, adjoining the tower, are E. Eng., while the others are Norm., with very thick round pillars, and a course of smaller arches has been carried above them. The W. window is filled with armorial bearings of kings, nobles, and members of old Shropshire families. In the S. aisle are a mutilated mailed figure, headless, on a basement of early pointed arches, supposed to be that of Roger de Montgomery, the founder of the abbey, who died as a monk of his own foundation in 1094; an elaborate tomb of a knight and lady, Wm. Charlton, 1546; and a crossed-legged knight in mail, supposed to be Walter de Dunstanville, circa 1196. In the N. aisle an altar-tomb with 2 well-preserved effigies, painted, in the costume of James I.'s time (name Jones).

A late altar-tomb has effigies of Sir Richard Onslow, Speaker in reign of Queen Elizabeth, and Lady; in the N. porch, the figure of a judge of the time of Edward I; a monumental statue in armour, with a long robe thrown back (14th cent.), besides others more or less interesting, which have been brought at different times from the churches of St. Giles, Old St. Chad's, and Old St. Alkmund's.

The extensive *Monastic Remains* have nearly disappeared. The Chapter-house, which formerly stood to the S. of the ch., was celebrated as the house of assembly for the 1st

English Parliament in 1283. In a builder's yard opposite the ch. on S. is a very elegant * *Stone Pulpit*, probably used for reading to the brethren while at meals. It contains 6 E. Eng. trefoil arches, partly filled in by panels, on which are sculptured figures of St. Peter and St. Paul, &c. The *Ch. of St. Giles*, the oldest in Shrewsbury, was built early in the reign of Henry I., for the use of a Leper Hospital. It stands on the Acton Burnell road, and preserves, amongst modern additions, some Norm. work, and a good Norm. font. Shrewsbury has in all nine Churches.

The Royal Free Grammar School, near the Castle, highly esteemed among the public schools of England, was founded in 1551 by Edward VI., since whose time many persons of varied eminence have received their education here, from Sir Philip Sidney to Judge Jefferies, to say nothing of a rare list of scholars of later days. The lofty building is surmounted by a pinnaled tower. It now contains a Museum, Reading Room, and Public Library. Shrewsbury School has been associated in modern times with the name of the late Dr. Butler, Bishop of Lichfield, an eminent Greek scholar, to whose learning and talent it is highly indebted for its position as a great public school.

The new site of the school at Kingsland, on the rt. bank of the Severn, is admirable for its beauty and healthiness, whilst its internal arrangements and facilities for boating and cricket are second to none in the kingdom. Its *Chapel* and detached modern residences for the masters have been built by Bloomfield, archt. The approach to it is over a fine *Iron Bridge*, planned by Mr. H. Robertson, C.E., M.P.

The Old School has been converted into a *Museum*, where, among other objects of interest, are preserved the Roman remains from

Wroxeter (see p. 8). Here also is the *Public Library* and Reading Room.

Just below the castle, and opposite the old school, is a picturesque timber-framed gate-house, known as the *Council House*, or Lord's Place, now converted into private residences. Here Charles I., with his nephew Prince Rupert, took up their quarters, as also did James II. in 1687. It received its name from having been the hall of the Court of the Marches of Wales, which held its meetings in turns here, at Ludlow, and Hereford.

The *Market Square* is surpassed for architectural interest in few English county towns, and is the focus of all the most important business. It contains Assize Courts and County Hall, from a design by Smirke, Music and Assembly Rooms, and the old *Market House*, an interesting building, a very good specimen of Italian architecture, with square mullioned windows, raised upon an open arcade. Over the W. front are the arms of Queen Elizabeth, and over the N. arch is a statue in armour of Richard, Duke of York, which formerly graced the old tower on the Welsh Bridge.

A prominent object in the Market Square is the bronze statue of a Salopian worthy, *Lord Clive*, by Marochetti, placed there in 1860. Clive invested a large portion of his Indian gains in land in the county of Salop, of which he was a native, and represented the town 3 times in Parliament, and was elected mayor in 1762. The old *Market* has been deserted for a large and more capacious one of red brick.

Shrewsbury is rich in ancient houses, the principal of which are *Ireland's Mansion*, a half-timbered gabled building, at the corner of the High-st., not far from the Market-place; a fine timber house of the 15th cent. in *Hutches's Row* (near

St. Alkmund's Ch.); the *Draper's Hall*, near St. Mary's Ch., an Elizabethan building, with a fine old wainscoted apartment.

Vaughan's Place (in College Hill) retains a portion, erected in the 14th cent., in good preservation.

Near St. Mary's Ch., on the site of the Post Office, once stood the *High Cross*, where Dafydd ap Gruffydd, brother to Llewelyn, met his fate of hanging, burning, and quartering, after being dragged at a horse's tail through the streets.

Lord Hill's monument in the London road, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. beyond the Abbey Ch., commemorates another Shropshire hero—the hero of the Douro, Talavera, Vittoria, Waterloo, and finally Commander-in-Chief of the British army. The Doric column, 133 ft. high, was erected at a cost of nearly 6000*l.* in 1816, and is surmounted by a statue of Lord Hill. It is worth while ascending to the balcony at the summit for the sake of the view.

The visitor should not omit the *Quarry*, a public walk of a beauty and extent that few towns can boast. It is a green lawn or prairie near St. Chad's Ch., laid out with shrubberies and winding walks around a pond and fountain (the original Quarry), but bounded and intersected by stately lime avenues. It slopes down to the Severn (here crossed by bridge), and extends over more than twenty acres.

Amongst natives of Shrewsbury may be mentioned Thomas Churchyard, the poet; Admiral Benbow; and Charles Darwin, author of the Evolution theory, who was born in the house on the outskirts of Shrewsbury, called *Frankwell*.

A striking peculiarity of the *streets* of Shrewsbury is the retention of so many quaint and ancient names, and marking curious corruptions of appellations that were once appro-

priate. Wyle Cop=Watch Bank, it being a steep ascent from the river; Dog-pole=Duck-pool, in the hollow near St. Mary's; Mardol or Mardefol=Dairy Fold or Grazing Ground; Pride Hill, from an ancient family resident there; Shop Latch=Shutte Place, the seat of an old Salop family; Murivance, an open space in front of the walls, &c.

The visitor should not omit to pay attention to the famous *cakes and brawn*, the former of which, in particular, have been in request since the days of Queen Elizabeth. The *Simmel cake*, eaten in Lent and on Mothering Sunday, consists of a quasi-mincemeat surrounded by a tough, yellow, uneatable crust.

History.—The antiquity of Shrewsbury is considerable, and its British name (Pen-gwern, "the head of the Alderwood") indicates its position above the fertile meadow-lands which were then covered with trees and bushes. Its Saxon name "Scrobesbyrig" is evidently of the same derivation. Fortified by a loop of the Severn, it was the capital of the Powis princes between the destruction of Uriconium and the time of King Offa. After the Norman conquest it was the earldom of Roger de Montgomery, by whom the castle, commanding the only land approach to the town, was erected. Hither, to the Parliament adjourned from Westminster, came "old John of Gaunt, time-honour'd Lancaster," and Henry of Hereford, his "bad son,"—

Here to make good the boisterous late appeal
Against the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas
Mowbray."

In 1403 the battle between the forces of the same Henry of Hereford, then King of England, and those of Hotspur and his confederates, when Falstaff fought with Percy "a long hour by Shrewsbury clock," took place on the plain about 3 m. distant, under the skirts of

Haughmond Hill. The spot is still called Battlefield.

A handsome Perp. *Church*, restored in 1863, covers the spot where the King raised a small chapel over the pit where the dead were buried. It was one of the bloodiest battles on English ground since that of Hastings, King Henry losing 1000 men and the rebels 5000. Marching from the south, the King was just able to throw himself into the town before the rebels, 14,000 strong, under Hotspur, Douglas, and Worcester, came up. They were posted upon Bullfield Common, under Haughmond Hill, supported by the chivalry and archers of Cheshire, but not joined by Owen Glendower, who had not yet arrived from the S. The King marched out of the N. gate to the attack, placing his son Harry in the van, who, only 15 years old that day, carried himself valiantly, and was wounded by an arrow. The King, knowing that his life was specially sought, clad three or four knights in armour like his own; three of them were slain. Douglas and Hotspur, the two stoutest knights in England, bore down upon the Royal Standard, which was struck down, and Sir Walter Blunt, who bore it, slain, along with Lord Stafford, High Constable.

The fortune of the day had gone rather against the King, who, it is said, slew 36 men with his own hand, when, leading on his reserve for a fresh effort, he beheld Hotspur fall, pierced by a random arrow. "Percy is dead!" exclaimed the King, in a voice heard all over the field, and the fortune of the day was decided. Douglas, wounded and taken prisoner, was released by Henry on the following day, but Worcester was hung, drawn, and quartered as a traitor in the marketplace of Shrewsbury.

Railways.—To London, 162½ m.;

Birmingham, 42; Ruabon, 26; Llangollen, 32 m.; Welshpool and Montgomery, 22 m.; Oswestry, 20; Chester, 42; Welshpool, 20; Church Stretton, 12; Ludlow, 27; Hereford, 51; Crewe, 32; Wem, 11; Stafford, 29; Newtown, 34; Aberystwyth, 81½; Llanymynech, 18.

[Many pleasant *Excursions* in the neighbourhood of Shrewsbury are described in the *Handbook to Shropshire*. The antiquary should visit **Wroxeter**, the site of the ancient *Ur-iconium*, 5 m. It can be reached either by rail to Upton Magna stat. on the Shropshire Union Rly., from whence it is 2 m. of rather intricate lanes, or by direct road thither (5 m.), crossing the Severn at 3 m. *Atcham*, where there is an exceedingly picturesque ch. close to the river-side. The lower portion of the tower is of good Norm. work. *Atcham* was the birthplace of *Ordericus Vitalis*, the historian and chaplain of William the Conqueror.

4 m. 1. *Attingham Hall* (Lord Berwick). A charming landscape is produced by the junction of the Tern with the Severn near this house. The Tern is crossed by a handsome open balustraded bridge.

5 m. **Wroxeter**. Here is a fine old *Norm. ch.*, with later alterations; in the interior are some unique altar-tombs of the 16th cent., the figures of which are remarkable for the freshness and vividness of the colouring. At the gate of the ch.-yard are 2 Roman pillars with highly ornamented capitals, discovered in the bed of the river, which flows close by.

The remains of *Ur-iconium* are to be found by the side of the Watling-st. road in a field a few hundred yards to the N., which has been excavated over an area of 2 acres, at the expense of the Shropshire Antiquarian Society. The

ruins consist of a massive wall about 70 ft. in length, known as the Old Wall, to the S. of which is a series of courts and hypocausts, supposed to have been the public baths. In all the latter the supporting pillars of Roman bricks, as well as the flues, are in high preservation, and afford a clear illustration of the methods by which the Romans warmed their houses. In one of the hypocausts 3 skeletons were found, and a box of coins of the reigns of Tetricus, Valens, Constantius, &c.

[*Shrewsbury to Ruabon and Wrexham (Gt. Western Rly.)*.

The line at first runs through deep cuttings; 1. 1 m. is Berwick Hall.

2 m. it passes between two meres, known respectively as *Almond* and *Hencott Pools*. These small meres are rather a peculiar feature in the country between Shrewsbury and Ellesmere.

4½ m. *Leaton* Stat.

7½ m. *Baschurch* Stat. On *Berth Hill*, 1 m. to the rt., are some ancient fortifications, surrounded by a circular vallum, the whole defended by a deep pool at the bottom of the eminence. The ch. contains some Norm. work in the tower and S. aisle.

[2½ m. 1. *Ruyton*, one of the 11 towns thought by many antiquarians to be identical with the Roman station *Rutunium*. The chancel of the ch. has some Norman details.]

13½ *Rednall* Stat.

16 m. *Whittington Junct.* for the Cambrian Rly. and Whitechurch (Rte. 2). On rt. are the ruins of the *Castle*, held after the Conquest by Earl Roger de Montgomery. It still possesses fragments of 8 towers (4 of which are attached to the keep), moat, and vestiges of other defensive works. It was the birthplace of Fulk Fitzwarine, whose ancestor, Guarine de Metz, one of K. John's barons, won

the castle as the prize of prowess in the tilting-ground along with Mallot, his daughter, from Peveril of the Peak. This Guarine was lord of Alberbury and sheriff of Shropshire. Park Hall, a timbered Elizabethan mansion, formerly belonging to the Kinchant, is near Whittington.

Rail.—We here cross the Cambrian Rly. to Oswestry, Rte. 26.

18 m. *Gobowen Junct.* for Oswestry (Rte. 26), Welshpool, Newtown, and Aberystwyth (Rte. 27).

After quitting Gobowen, the line speedily approaches the outskirts of the hills which have been for many miles looming in the distance, and the country now becomes broken and varied.

The ancient boundary—**Watt's Dyke**—commences, or at least is visible for the first time, at Maesbury, about 3 m. S. of Oswestry, and runs northward into Flintshire, keeping tolerably parallel with *Offa's Dyke*, which is plainly discernible on the high grounds in the parish of *Selattyn*, 3 m. W. of Gobowen. Its course is marked near Creignant by a tower built for that purpose by Mr. West. It is generally considered to have been a line of demarcation, for as a defence it must have been useless :

"There is a famous thing
Calde Offae's Dyke, that reacheth farre in
lengthe.
All kind of ware the Danes might thether
bring;
It was free ground, and calde the Briton's
strength.
Wat's Dyke, likewise, about the same was
set;
Between which two both Danes and Britons
met."—*Churchyard.*

Selattyn is the burial-place of John Hanmer, Bishop of St. Asaph, temp. James I., who left doles to the poor here.

A little beyond
Preesgwyn Stat. the railway crosses the valley of the Ceiriog, a tributary of the Dee, and the boundary between Shropshire and Denbighshire, the

latter of which the traveller now enters. The site of the Castle is historically celebrated as being the theatre of a bloody fight between the English and Welsh in 1164. Dafydd, son of Owain Gwynedd, prince of N. Wales, encouraged by the successes of the South Welsh, made a raid upon Flintshire, carrying off many prisoners and cattle to the Vale of Clwyd, upon which Henry II. advanced a large army as far as Oswestry. The Welsh retreated to the Berwyn Mts., where Henry, in his turn, was so harassed that he was obliged to withdraw and march back to England.

The scene from the Rly. train of the dingle of the Ceiriog is very picturesque, and is further enhanced by the engineering works by which the Ellesmere Canal and the railway are carried across it side by side. The *Aqueduct*, designed by Telford, consists of 10 circular arches, 65 ft. high, supported by pyramidal piers; while the *Rly. Viaduct*, constructed by Mr. Robertson, the engineer of the line, has 12 arches of 45 ft. span, and is 101 ft. in length.

Telford seems to have been the first who introduced spandrel walls into bridges in this country, in place of the former practice of cramming the spaces with earth and rubbish, which retained the water, and was liable to expand and burst the side walls. Here the canal bottom is made of cast-iron plates, fixed in masonry, which they hold together as ties. This aqueduct cost 20,898*l*.

21 m. *Chirk Stat.* About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. rt. is the village (*Inn* : Hand or Castle, a good, clean small house) near the Ch. (monuments). Behind it is the entrance to

Brynkinalt, the grounds of which are open to strangers, provided with tickets from the Hand Inn. The house, a modern Gothic mansion (not shown), contains a portrait and

other relics of the Duke of Wellington, who spent here many of his early days, his mother, Anne, Countess of Mornington, being daughter of the last Lord Dungannon. The Trevor family belong to the once numerous sept or family of Trevors, descended, with many of other names, from Tudor Trevor, and have been settled here since the 15th cent. On the demise of the last Viscount Dungannon, in 1862, the estate passed to Lord Arthur Hill Trevor (son of the Marquis of Downshire) who assumed the name of Trevor. Sir John Trevor, Speaker of the House of Commons in the reign of William III., possessed, and probably created, most of this estate.

About $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Chirk Stat. by road, $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. by footpath, is

Chirk Castle (R. Myddelton Biddulph, Esq.) situated in the midst of a very extensive and beautiful park, reaching to the foot of the Berwyn mountains. It is certainly among the most ancient inhabited houses in the kingdom, but unites the comfortable arrangements of a modern dwelling with the grandeur of a feudal castle. In plan, the castle is quadrangular, strengthened at the angles with huge round towers, and entered by a gateway in the N. front, which was formerly defended by a portecullis. The living apartments, which were restored and embellished by Pugin, are of considerable size, and occupy the N. and E. sides of the quadrangle. On the opposite side is a long picture gallery, containing many good portraits; the most interesting of which are Charles Mordaunt, Earl of Monmouth, Duke of Ormond, and his son, Lord Ossory, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, keeper of the great seals, William and Mary, Duchess of Shrewsbury, Sir Thomas Myddelton in armour, and others of the same family; Charles I., Sir Henry Vane;

some of Charles II.'s beauties; Mrs. Jane Lane. There is also a remarkable cabinet, of great value, given by Charles II. to Sir Thomas Myddelton. Though the present building is much modernised, it was commenced by Roger Mortimer in the reign of Edward I. It afterwards passed into the hands of the Arundels, Mowbrays, Beauchamps, Dudley (the favourite of Elizabeth), and subsequently of Lord St. John of Bletsoe, from whom it was purchased in 1595 by Sir Thos. Myddelton, Lord Mayor of London, and brother of the famous Sir Hugh, the projector of the New River scheme. During the Civil Wars it experienced many vicissitudes, amongst which not the least singular was its being besieged by its own possessor, at that time a Parliamentary, who endeavoured to dislodge a party of Royalists ensconced there. Sir Thos. Myddelton ultimately changed sides, and in his turn was besieged and forced to surrender; the repairs of that portion of the castle destroyed by Cromwell amounting to 80,000*l*. Adam's Tower, the oldest part of the Castle, built by Roger Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore, after murdering, it is said, his ward Gruffydd ap Madoc, in order to obtain the estate, still retains its deep dungeon. The view from the terrace will repay the visitor, who on a clear day is enabled to descry from thence 13 counties. The park, which is full of ancestral oaks, elms, and beeches, contains a large lake, on both sides of which Offa's Dyke can be traced.

Strangers are allowed to see Chirk Castle, Mon., Wed., and Friday.

Distances. — Llangollen, 5 m. (Rte. 3); Ellesmere, 10.

Between Chirk and Cefn the rly. is carried across the valley of the Dee on a remarkably beautiful and

colossal * *Viaduct* of 19 arches of 60 ft. span, at a height of 150 ft. above the river. The entire length is 1508 ft. For simplicity of design, and solidity, few viaducts in Europe can compare with this, the architect and engineer of which was Henry Robertson, Esq., M.P. It was erected in $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, and, without doubt, surpasses its neighbour, the aqueduct.

1. As the train slackens speed, a very charming *View* opens up of the vale of Llangollen, in which the river and the *Aqueduct of Pont-y-Cysylltau*, stretching across the valley l. parallel with the rly. (see Rte. 3), with the majestic height of Castell Dinas Bran in the distance (Rte. 3) are prominent features.

24 m. *Cefn Stat.*, a busy place of smoking chimneys, stone quarries, coal and lime heaps and slags. Overhanging the rly. on the rt. is the *Waterloo Tower*, situated within the precincts of Wynnstay, and erected by the late Sir W. W. Wynn to commemorate that battle. From hence a lovely walk along the valley of the Dee leads to *Nant-y-Belan*, "the Marten's dingle." "The steep banks are richly clad with light foliage, while the river runs along the bottom, now foaming over broken rocks, and presently flowing smooth and noiseless, and reflecting with a softened lustre the rich tints of the pendent trees and grassy knolls."—*Roscoe*. A mausoleum was erected here by Sir Watkin to the memory of the Welsh officers belonging to the regiment known as the Ancient Britons, who fell in the Irish rebellion of 1798. Both towers command varied and exquisite views, which, however, are by no means improved by the clouds of black smoke sent forth from the collieries and iron-works on the l. of the rly. In the distance appear the mountains above Llangollen, including Dinas Brân, part of the aqueduct

of Pont-y-Cysylltau, and in front Chirk Castle. A road and footpath lead through the woods along the margin of the Dee to Newbridge, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. distant. A considerable population is employed in this district at the *New British Ironworks*, for whom a ch. has been erected at Rhos-y-medre. At Trefynant the beautiful terra-cotta manufactory is carried on by Mr. J. C. Edwards.

The traveller here, and for a considerable distance N., skirts the E. border of the *N. Welsh Coalfield*, which, though very far inferior in size and value to its sister field in the S., is nevertheless practically inexhaustible as regards the supply and quality of the coal.

25 m. l. *Plasmadoc*, residence of the late G. H. Whalley, Esq., M.P., well known for his connection with the original enterprise of several Welsh railroads, and still better for his persistent advocacy of the Tichborne "claimant."

26 m. *Rhuabon Junct. Stat.* Here the rly. branches for Llangollen, Corwen, and Bala (Rte. 3) (*Inn*, Wynnstay Arms, close to the park-gates). Though the village is but small, the population accumulated in the parish exceeds 15,000. It derives importance from its position near the centre of a coal-field of 47 square miles area, producing in a year near 2 million tons of coal, and from the proximity of many ironworks and collieries, brick and tile works, potteries, &c.

The tourist will appreciate the far more agreeable neighbourhood of the princely demesne of Wynnstay (Sir Watkin Herbert Wynn, Bart., descended from, and the representative of, Sir William Williams, in the time of Charles II. Speaker of the House of Commons, and afterwards well known as Solicitor-General in the trial of the 7 bishops).

The *Church* of 3 aisles, close to the park-gates, contains some interesting monuments, principally of the Wynn family. The most noticeable are—that of Henry Wynn, 10th son of Sir John Wynn of Gwydir, in curious short skirts and square-toed shoes; a marble effigy in the S. aisle by Ruysbrach of Sir W. Wynn (killed by a fall from his horse in 1749), with a Latin inscription; also a statue by Nollekens to Lady Wynn, daughter of the Duke of Beaufort; and an altar-tomb near the communion-table on which are 2 recumbent figures of an armed knight and lady of the Eyton family, 1526, in the dress of the time of Henry VII., whose cause they supported at Bosworth.

The place now known as *Wynnstay* was in early times the residence of Madoc ap Gruffydd Maelor, Lord of Bromfield and Yale, and founder of Valle Crucis Abbey. Subsequently, it was called Wattstay, from the fact of Watt's Dyke running through the park and passing close to the house. The property came into the hands of the Wynns about 1670, by the marriage of the heiress of Eyton Evans with Sir John Wynn of Gwydir, and by subsequent marriages and female descents was established early in the last cent. in the present family of the Williams Wynns. The park, traversed by the river Dee, nearly 8 m. in circumference, has the reputation of being the largest in Wales, and presents many objects of interest, both from its natural beauties, its noble trees, and the improvements introduced by modern landscape-gardening on a large scale. Its principal features are a noble *Avenue* a mile long, leading from the Rhuabon Lodge; the Bath; grounds; and the Column, 101 ft. high with an internal spiral staircase (in the same part of the grounds) erected to the father of the late baronet by his mother, bearing on

the base "*Filio . optimo . mater . eheu . superstes ;*" the Waterloo Tower; and Mausoleum, at Nant-y-Belan, before mentioned. The old house (part of which dated back to the 15th cent.), contained some good pictures and curiosities, besides a valuable library in which were many interesting Welsh records and MSS. These were nearly all destroyed by fire on the night of 6th March, 1858. Wynnstay has been rebuilt in the Renaissance style. It contains family portraits by Vandyck, Kneller, and Sir Joshua Reynolds, as well as busts of eminent statesmen of the Georgian epoch. Here is preserved a large gold *Torque*, found on Cadir Idris.

On an eminence about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. l. of Ruabon is the camp and enclosure of *Gardden*, defended in many places by concentric dykes, and showing traces internally of ancient dwellings. Offa's Dyke passes it at a distance of about 200 yards.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.W. is *Llanerchrugog Hall* (T. Jones, Esq.). a very ancient family seat, the park extending to the large village of *Rhos Llanerchrugog*, the most populous part of the parish of Rhuabon.

Distances. — Llangollen, 6 m. (Rte. 3); Wrexham, 5; Overton, 5; Bangor Iscoed, 6; Ellesmere, 10; Chirk, 5; Oswestry, 11; Gresford, 8; Chester, 17 m. (Rte. 4).

[An excursion can be made through a pretty country to *Overton*, passing 3 m. *Rose Hill*, and *Erbistock Hall*. A little beyond is the picturesque village of *Erbistock*, with its ch.-yd. washed by the river Dee, which at 4 m. from Rhuabon is crossed by a stone bridge.

5 m. *Overton* possesses in itself little of interest, but is well worth a visit, if only to feast one's eyes on the Dee, which at a considerable depth below winds round the vale; its waters often spotted with salmon-fishers in

their *Coracles*, the aboriginal British boats made of wicker-work. The Britons appear to have taught their Roman masters the art of making wicker baskets, and to have introduced the name of *Bascauda* (*Basgawd*) into the classic Latin tongue. Martial tells us, "*Barbara de pictis venit bascauda Britannis*;" and certainly no more curious application of the art than to the manufacture of these boats (the same now as in the days of *Cæsar*) can be found. They are exceedingly dangerous to those who are unaccustomed to them, and require a Welshman for their management as well as their manufacture. In Overton ch.-yd. are 21 very remarkable old *Yew-Trees*, some very large. The view from the pretty cemetery is peculiarly beautiful.

2 m. N. of Overton on the Wrexham road is the once important place of *Bangor Iscoed* (*Inn*: Royal Oak), by some supposed to be the Roman *Bovium*. Near this, in the green and fertile basin of meadows divided by the Dee, lies the site of the largest and most ancient monastery in Great Britain, traditionally stated to have been founded about the year 180 by Lucius, son of Coel, the first Christian king of Britain. Pelagius, the heretic, stigmatized in one of our 39 Articles, is also recorded to have been a monk in this place, from whence he proceeded to Rome before his controversy with St. Augustine. The number of monks was said to have been 2400 previous to the destruction of the monastery by Ethelfrid, king of Northumberland, which took place after the battle of Chester, A.D. 607. Four stone coffins of Norman date, and a British cross are spoken of by Pennant as found in the ch.-yd. The ch. has been restored. There is considerable beauty in its situation close to the river, which is here crossed by a

narrow picturesque bridge of 5 arches, with recesses from the roadway over the piers for the protection of foot-passengers.

From Bangor or Overton the Flintshire hundred of Maelor or Maelor Saesneg may be visited; an industrious agricultural district, containing many dairy farms, where cheese of the finest quality is produced.

From Bangor to Wrexham it is 6 m. 1½ m. from Wrexham is

Erddig, the residence of Simon Yorke, Esq., a member of the Hardwicke family. The W. front has been cased with stone, but the E. front and interior are unaltered. There is a profusion of oak paneling, and some very fine pictures, tapestry, &c. The gardens are in the Dutch style, and the extensive walks in the woods were laid out by Capability Brown. It is remarkable for the beauty of its situation on a wooded mound, at the base of which runs a murmuring brook. Philip Yorke, an ancestor of the present owner, was the author of a learned genealogical work, '*The Royal Tribes of Wales*,' the heraldic devices of which are curiously emblazoned on the walls of one of the apartments. Plas - Grono, in the Erddig grounds, was the birthplace of Apperley, the clever author of the '*Turf, Chase, and Road*,' better known as '*Nimrod*.'

31 m. **Wrexham Junct. Stat.** (*Inns*: Wynnstay Arms; Lion). The approach to this town is announced for some distance by the noble tower of the ch., which, from its great height and elevated position, is visible for miles. The town is noticed in the Saxon chronicles under the name of Wrightelsham, and was granted to Earl Warren in the reign of Edward I. This is almost all that is historically known, except that Le-

land mentions it as containing "sum merchauntes and good bokeler makers." It is now chiefly famous for its ale and zoedone.

The *Church*, a very fine example of the Perp. style, was built about 1470, though the tower, one of the 7 wonders of Wales, was not completed until 1500. It is 135 ft. in height, is for the most part panelled as are also its buttresses and the bands or strings, and is surmounted by a balustrade from which spring 4 lantern-shaped turrets of rich open work crowning the buttresses after the Somersetshire fashion. In the niches of the buttresses are placed statues of 30 saints, among them that of St. Giles, to whom the church is dedicated.

The ch. consists of a nave and aisles, N. porch, and polygonal apse at the E. end, all of fine proportions. The nave is separated from the aisle by octagonal columns, with moulded capitals and bases. The nave has a clerestory with two-light cinquefoiled windows. There is a fine open timber roof of low span, with rafters and moulded tie-beams, and knees supported by stone corbels, with angels bearing shields. An octagonal font of good proportions has been restored to the W. end of the nave from the garden of Acton House, where it had long served as an ornamental basin. The lofty arch supported by clustered columns admits a view of the W. window of 5 cinquefoil lights, with trefoil-headed mullions. The E. window of the chancel is pointed, of 5 cinquefoiled lights. The subject is the life of our Saviour in stained glass. The church was restored 1867, and the galleries removed, so that the effect of the lofty nave and apsidal chancel is very beautiful. In the chancel are a fine metal screen and brass lectern, 1524. Remains of mural paintings have been laid open over chancel arch and in N. porch. The monu-

ment for which Wrexham ch. is particularly famous, by *Roubiliac*, to the memory of Mrs. Mary Myddelton, of Chirk Castle, is in the N. aisle. It represents a female figure starting from the grave at the sound of the last trump.

There are two medallion monuments, by the same sculptor, to the Rev. Thos. Myddelton and his wife. Hugh Bellot, Bishop of Bangor and Chester, 1596, lies in his robes on the S. of the chancel. There are monuments also to Sir Richd. Lloyd, governor of Holt Castle for Charles I., and to Mrs. Peel, by Woolner. The church and ch.-yd. contain an unusual number of quaint epitaphs.

In the tower is an exceedingly sweet peal of 10 bells, cast by Rudhall in 1726. In excavating here was found a stone effigy of an armed knight with a couchant dog or lion, and the shield charged with a lion rampant, and the legend, "hic jacet ap Howell," now deposited in N. porch.

Wrexham has the good fortune to possess, with its many churches and chapels, religious accommodation for its 18,162 Inhab. It is a thriving and increasing town, partly owing to its situation on the borders of the Denbighshire coal-fields, and partly to the large mining population which find subsistence from the various collieries scattered about on the slopes of the hills to the W. Large *Barracks* for the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers have been erected outside the town on the Shrewsbury road.

Mineral Railway to Brymbo and Mold.

Distances.—Rhuabon, 5 m.; Bangor Iscoed, 6; Holt, 5½; Minera, 5; Mold, 11; Overton, 8; Ruthin, 16; Corwen, 20.

[The district of *Minera*, in the carboniferous limestone, about 5 m. W. l., is remarkably rich in lead, zinc, copper, iron ores, besides

being placed at the outcrop of the coalmeasures and in the immediate neighbourhood of lime and slate quarries. 1 m. rt. of road to Minera and Ruthin is *Brymbo Hall*, an old mansion, said to have been designed by Inigo Jones, and formerly inhabited by an ironmaster of the name of Wilkinson, who had large works at Bersham, and cast here the ironwork of Southwark Bridge. On l. is *Plas Power*, the seat of the Fitzhugh family. Hence the road continues to Llandegla and Ruthin (Rte. 11). The road to Llandegla runs up a narrow gorge between limestone cliffs. It is a very pretty walk from Wrexham, through *Bersham*, 1 m., skirting *Plas Power* estate, to Adwyrclawdd, 3 m.]

[An excursion may be made from Wrexham to the little Denbighshire town of *Holt*, 5½ m. E., at one period of its history of some importance, but now much decayed. The castle, of which there are but few traces, was built in Edward I.'s reign, by Earl Warren (a contemporary of Mortimer the founder of Chirk), and in the reign of Henry VII. was forfeited to the Crown by the attainder of Sir William Stanley, K.G., who, not many years before, had placed the crown on his head at Bosworth Field. In 1643 it was taken by Sir Thos. Myddelton and Sir W. Brereton. The situation of Holt, with its narrow old Bridge over the Dee, connecting it with *Farndon* in Cheshire, and its red-towered ch., is picturesque.]

32 m. rt. is *Acton Park* (Sir R. Acton Cunliffe, Bt.), historically noted as being the birthplace of Judge Jefferies, to whose family the property had belonged for a considerable time, though the present house is later than his day. Cowbridge, in Glamorganshire, disputes the questionable honour with Acton Park; but there is not the least room for doubting that he came from

Acton. The lordship of Wem, in Shropshire, belonged to him at one time, he having bought it in 1684. He was created a peer as Baron Jefferies of Wem immediately afterwards.

34 m. *Gresford* (from Croes-ffordd, 'the road of the cross'), sweetly situated above the vale of the Alyn, which meanders gracefully through thick woods and rich pastures. The *Church* (Perp.), conspicuously placed on the rising ground to the rt., is both ancient and interesting; and, like Wrexham, is also a wonder of Wales, from the purity and tone of its peal of 12 bells. The interior contains some ancient monuments, particularly a sculptured stone in memory of Gronow ap Iorwerth ap Dafydd, 1320, one of the 6 sons of Ithel, who gave the land for the foundation of the ch.; a mailed warrior of the date 1331, besides several others belonging to the family of Trevor of Trevalyn, who were descended from the same ancestors as that of Brynkinalt. Notice the elaborate carving of the *Rood-screen* and stalls, and bench-ends in the choir, as well as the images of Knights Templars, and that of Henry VII. on the tower, which is 90 ft. high, quadrangular, and very striking. There is also a moulding containing a grotesque chase of cats, rats, mice, dogs, and monkeys. The stained windows are said to be ancient. A yew tree in the ch. yd. is said to be 1450 years old, has a girth of 30 feet, and is 60 ft. high. A petrifying spring is one of the curiosities of the parish.

Saml. Warren, Q.C., author of 'Ten Thousand a Year,' was born here 1807.

There are pleasant walks in Wilderness Wood and along the banks of the Alyn.

The rly. follows the course of the Alyn to *Rossett* Stat., to the rt. of

which are *Trevalyn House* (Gen. Townsend); *Trevalyn Old Hall*, the Elizabethan seat of Griffith Boscawen, Esq.; and *Rossett* village. From hence the character of the scenery changes, the outskirts of the hills being speedily left behind, as the traveller is rapidly borne along the flat alluvial lands of the Dee.

Near the village of Dodleston the line enters Flintshire. The ch. contains the monument of Lord Chancellor Ellesmere.

41 m., at *Saltney Stat.* a Junction is effected with the Holyhead line. A populous settlement has grown up here since 1860, consisting of workmen and their families employed in the large Rly.-works attached to the G. Western line, and also in loading and unloading of vessels, which come up the river to this point, Saltney being in fact the port of Chester. It lies in the bed of the ancient estuary of the Dee, on land recovered from the water by the River Dee Company, under power granted to them by Parliament, 1732. The line dividing the counties of Chester and Flint at this place is in fact the midline, or "medium filum aquæ," of the ancient channel of the Dee.

Crossing the rly.-bridge over the Dee, and gliding under the old walls, the traveller arrives at the ancient and time-honoured city of

CHESTER JUNCT. STAT. (Rte. 4).

ROUTE 2.

WHITTINGTON JUNCTION TO WHITCHURCH JUNCTION, BY ELLESMERE—RAIL.

This line runs from Whitchurch to Oswestry, and forms a connecting link between the Shrewsbury and Chester and the Cambrian Rlys., which cross one another at Whittington Stat. It is therefore a direct route from Manchester to Llangollen, Dolgelley, Aberystwyth, &c.

3 m. rt. *Halston* (E. Wright, Esq.), formerly seat of the Mytton family, one of whom, John Mytton, Esq., as sheriff of the county, had the task of receiving into custody Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, surrendered by the treachery of Humphrey Banastre, his steward. The famous General Mytton, who reduced so many Welsh castles for the Parliament, was a member of this family. The mad pranks of "Jack Mytton," the penultimate owner of the estate, made Halston somewhat famous in the first quarter of the 19th centy. There is a herouery at Halston.

7 m. *Ellesmere Stat.* (*Inns*: Bridge-water Arms; Lion), a pretty town of some 2000 Inhab., placed on the bank of a lake of 120 acres, which lies to the rt. of the Stat., and from whence its Saxon name Aelsmere was derived. The banks of this and the other 5 meres in the neighbourhood, of which the principal is *Colmere* (2½ m. distant), offer an attractive field for the botanist, being especially rich in ferns. The town was originally held by Earl Roger de Montgomery, and afterwards by the Crown, who made frequent grants of it, amongst others one to Prince David, formerly mentioned as executed at Shrewsbury. It afterwards passed into the hands of Lord Strange, and finally the Eger-

ton family. The late Lord Francis Leveson Gower, as one of the representatives of the last Egerton, Duke of Bridgewater (the Canal Duke), took the name of Egerton and the title of Ellesmere. Its prosperity depends almost entirely on its markets for corn and agricultural produce, which are resorted to by dealers from Liverpool and Chester to supply the manufacturing districts. Malting is the chief business, owing to the abundance and excellence of the barley of the neighbourhood. The site of the *Castle* is occupied by a bowling-green, which embraces a grand view into 9 counties, overlooking Chester and the Broxton Hills, Wrexham and the Caergwrle heights, Castle Dinas Bran and the Berwyns, the Breiddins, Clee-hill, and the Wrekin.

The *Church* has a Dec. nave, rebuilt in 1849, and a good E. window. In a chapel S. of the chancel is the Oteley Chapel, with an altar tomb to Sir F. Kynaston and his lady, 1590. At the S. end of the mere is *Oteley Park*, the modern Elizabethan mansion of Salisbury Kynaston Mainwaring, Esq.

The Ellesmere and Chester Canal was an engineering work of Telford.

1 m. out of the town, passing Spy Bank, an artificial mound, is *St. Oswald's College*, a late Gothic edifice, built 1885—as a Middle Class School for 500 boys. It cost 27,000*l.*

Distances.—Shrewsbury, by road, 16 m.; Oswestry, 8; Overton, 4.

10 m. *Welshampton* Stat., where there is a pretty memorial *Church*, erected in 1863, by Mrs. Mainwaring of Oteley. Here was buried Jeremiah, son of Mosesh, King of the Basutos, a S. African student at St. Augustin's, Canterbury, who died whilst visiting at the vicarage.

The line enters Flintshire near 11½ m. *Bettisfield* Stat. Immediately adjacent is *Bettisfield Park*, an

[*N. Wales.*]

ancient house, the seat of the Hanmers, also containing a considerable library and many family portraits and pictures. Close by this house is the watershed of Flintshire, the water flowing southward to the Severn, but N.E. and westward to the Dee.

A little to the N. of Bettisfield is *Gredington*, the seat of Lord Kenyon, containing a library collected by the distinguished Chief Justice, founder of that family, and portraits of himself and of his contemporary Lord Thurlow: and to the N. of this again is the village of *Hanmer*, mentioned by Camden in his 'Britannia.' The *Church* is of Tudor architecture, commenced to be rebuilt in the reign of Henry VII., after the destruction of the old one in the York and Lancaster wars. It contains magnificent carved oak ceilings, and various monuments of the Hanmer and Kenyon families. It is most probable that Owain Glyndwr was married here, since his wife was Margaret, daughter of Sir David Hanmer, Knt., one of the judges K.B. in the reign of Richard II., resident here in his day, and ancestor of the present owners. In front of the ch. towards the S. extends one of the *Meres* which give so much beauty to this part of the country.

The rly. next passes through the *Fenn's Moss*, or Whixall Moss, a large tract of peaty moorland, grown up on the site of one of the original woods cut down by King Edward I. to clear the country at the settlement of Wales, and cut through by Messrs. Savin & Ward in 1861.

15 m. *Fenn's Bank* Stat.

18 m. *Whitchurch* Junct. (*Hand-book of Shropshire*). *Inn*: *Victoria, a pleasant, clean, country Inn, and moderate. In the modern *Ch.* is the tomb of the great John Talbot, slain at Chastillon in France, 1543, and of others of the family.

ROUTE 3.

**RHUABON JUNCTION TO DOLGELLEY,
BY LLANGOLLEN, CORWEN, AND
BALA LAKE—RAIL.**

4 trains daily in 2 hrs. to 2 hrs. 20 min. This route lies through some of the finest scenery in N. Wales. The line from Shrewsbury to

Rhuabon Junct. Stat. is described in Rte. 1. From this the Rly. is carried at a high level along the l. side of the Dee Valley. The old high road follows lower ground up the rt. bank, but commands finer views of the valley, and its two remarkable objects, the *Viaduct* and the *Aqueduct*, both prominent and graceful structures. The Rly. to Llangollen ascends an incline, passing the grounds of Plasmadoc to

Acrefair Stat., where there are the extensive Iron-works of the British Iron Company, and a considerable mining population. This is the nearest point (about 1 m.) to the **Pont-y Cysylltau Aqueduct**, which carries the Llangollen branch of the Ellesmere canal at a height of 126 ft. across the valley of the Dee—a work of modern art not surpassed by any similar structure of antiquity, since, though inferior in length to many Roman aqueducts, it probably exceeds any one in height, in elegant proportion, in scientific contrivance, and certainly in the quantity of water which it transports. It was built by Telford to convey the Ellesmere canal across the valley of the Dee, here 2600 ft. wide. This he effected by an earthen embankment 1500 ft. long, extending from the S. side of the valley and connected with the opposite side by 18 arches resting on light and lofty piers of sandstone and 2 abutments.

These support a water-trough of cast iron, 1007 ft. long, through which the canal passes. The width of the waterway is 11 ft. 10 in., of which the towing-path, supported on iron pillars, covers 4 ft. 8 in., allowing the water to fluctuate beneath it, and greatly facilitating the progress of the boats; it is 5 ft. 3 in. deep. The height of the piers above low water in the river is 121 ft.; up to 70 ft. from their base they are of solid masonry; above this they are built hollow with a cross inner wall, securing lightness and saving masonry. It was completed in 1805, 10 years after its commencement, and cost 47,018*l.* An inscription on the S. side of the middle pier, near its base, records the particulars of its construction.

The series of light and elegant piers, supporting cast-iron arches, stretching across this valley and meeting the crow midway in its flight, adds greatly to the effect of the scenery around. It has a very picturesque appearance from the high road. In order to form a just idea of the work, the traveller should cross the drawbridge and walk on the aqueduct, so as to look down from it over the tops of the trees upon the rushing and brawling Dee; then returning, descend the bank and walk as far as the river, so as to be able to appreciate the magnitude of the piers and the height of the canal. Sir Walter Scott described it as the most impressive work of art he had ever seen.

The drive from hence to Llangollen combines a series of lovely views, and has long been celebrated by tourists as being one of the most charming excursions in Wales.

There is no doubt but that the *Vale of Llangollen* possesses all the accessories of a perfect landscape, though a good deal depends upon the particular lights under which it is seen. The traveller should by all means ascend the vale, if possible, in his

route to the hill districts, as after the rugged heights of Snowdonia, the scenery here is necessarily tame and insignificant. The opinions of various writers differ most amusingly about the beauties of Llangollen, from the most extravagant encomiums, to Pennant's assertion that the Eglwyseg rocks are actually a disfigurement to the landscape.

On the same side of the river are the *Waterloo Tower* and the woods of Wynnstay (Rte. 1), sadly too near the smoky chimneys of Acrefair.

The rly. next passes to

2½ m. *Trevor Stat.*, under a promontory of limestone rock, fringed with beautiful woods, high up amongst which is *Trevor Hall*, formerly the seat of the Lloyds, a Montgomeryshire family, who obtained it by marriage with the heiress of the Trevors. It now is in the possession of Rice William Thomas, Esq. There is a small chapel near the house.

The *Eglwyseg* rocks and the lofty eminence on which *Castell Dinas Bran* is perched, are here the principal features in the view, although they are better seen from the road on the S. bank of the Dee. The former is a very peculiar wall of carboniferous limestone precipices, which stretches from this point towards Llangollen, and then, turning to the N.W., merges in the range of Cynr-y-brain, constituting in fact the geological boundary of the N. Wales coal-field. It is remarkable for the peculiarly formal and regular appearance of the strata, which makes it at once conspicuous beyond every hill in the district.

6 m. *Llangollen Stat.* at the river side, and just below the canal.

Inns: Hand Hotel, one of the best in Britain, a pleasant house, open to the river and Dinas Bran, thoroughly comfortable, and very moderate, kind landlady, Mrs. Ed-

wards;—Royal Hotel, close to the Bridge, also good.

Llangollen, Pop. 4638, a town of whitewashed houses with slate roofs, contributes nothing to the beauty of the valley; while the Dee, on which it stands, here crossed by a 14th-century bridge of 4 pointed arches, for part of the year runs through one only, leaving a bare slaty bed without water to cover it. It is shut in on the N. by grand limestone cliffs, in front of which rises a conical outlier of Silurian slate, crowned by the castle of Dinas Bran. Though small, it is a busy, well-to-do place, famous in particular for its brewery, its flannels, and its harper. The Welsh ale and Welsh airs may be simultaneously enjoyed at the Hand, in the hall of which hostelry a harper welcomes the coming and speeds the parting guest with 'Jenny Jones' or 'Ar hyd y nos.' The town itself is soon exhausted, but the beautiful excursions in the neighbouring hills make it a pleasant centre for a stay of some days. The *Church*, dedicated to a saint with the name of Collen ap Gwynog ap Clyddwg ap Cowrda ap Caradoc Freichfras ap Llyr Merini ap Einion Yrth ap Cunedda Wledig, who was buried in it; though for the most part modern, it has a good Perp. roof and a Dec. S.W. door, near which are buried the well-known "Ladies of Llangollen," along with their faithful servant, in one grave, marked by a granite monument with 3 sides.

On rising ground, 10 m. walk above the Ch., is *Plas Newydd* (General Yorke) a small cottageornée, once the retreat of the same two maiden ladies, Lady Eleanor Butler, a member of the Ormonde family, and the Hon. Miss Ponsonby, of the Bessborough family. In 1779 they came hither together in the heyday of their youth and charms, influenced only by a romantic attachment to each other, which never was sundered,

and a fancied desire to retire from the world. Here they set up their tent and lived together, neither "the world forgetting" nor "by the world forgot," amidst their books and flowers. An assiduous correspondence carried on with their literary and fashionable friends kept them always *au courant* of the latest gossip and scandal of the outer world, and as their hermitage lay on the Holyhead mail road, it allowed many a passing friend to drop in upon them, such as young Arthur Wellesley on his way to embark for Spain, 1808. The costume which they adopted, though it seemed singular to strangers, was only that of the Welsh peasant women,—a man's hat, a blue cloth gown or riding-habit, with short hair, uncurled and grey (undyed). After a happy friendship of 50 years Miss Butler died, 1829, aged 90, and Miss Ponsonby in 1830 at the age of 78. Their house, now converted into a sort of Museum, is covered inside and out with black oak carvings and panels, the spoil of many a Welsh church, screens and reredoses, intermixed with parts of old bedsteads, collected by the ladies themselves, to which many objects have been added by the present possessor. The veteran officer who now owns Plas Newydd, has not only zealously preserved it with all its quaint decorations within and without, but has greatly added to its curiosities in the way of old furniture, pictures, painted glass, and sculpture—those in ivory executed by himself. He has, in fact, converted the house into a Museum of Vertu, a sort of Welsh Strawberry Hill, for the which, as well as for the singular beauty of the spot, Plas Newydd is well worthy of a visit. Visitors pay a fee of 6*d.*, which goes to some local charity.

Plas Pengwern, about 1 m. on the old road to Chirk, now a farmhouse, was an ancient seat of the 14th cent. belonging to the Mostyn family, to

whom it descended from an ancestor, Tudor Trevor, who built the original mansion. Hence a very charming walk may be taken over the hills to the little village of Glyn Ceiriog, 3 m. from Llangollen.

A straight path from the Bridge and over the Canal leads across fields in $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour to the top of the steep conical slate hill on which stands *Castell Dinas Bran*. The ruins, reduced to shapeless masonry, with no mouldings left, are not picturesque, but they occupy a grand position, 600 ft. above the Dee, on the verge of a nearly absolute precipice, while on the other side a cleft in the rock becomes a natural moat. The *Eglwyseg Cliffs*, rising up from a deep valley, form a grand background, and E. opens out the broad valley of the Dee, looking over Trevor Hall to Rhuabon and the Rly. Viaduct, with various towers and chimneys grouped; S. rises the Berwyn range.

The name Dinas Bran may mean either "Crow's Castle," or the fortress of the Chief (Bran), or of Bran, a mountain stream. Its origin is involved in great obscurity. Indeed but little is known of it at any time, except that it gave refuge to Gruffydd ap Madoc when he fled from his countrymen's righteous anger in consequence of his having deserted to the side of Henry III.; and lastly, that it sustained an attack under Owain Glyndwr.

Distances. — Rhuabon, 6 m.; Ruthin, 15; Corwen, 10; Valle Crucis, 2; Llandysilio, 3.

Excursions.—a. *Valle Crucis Abbey*, $1\frac{3}{4}$ m., the best preserved monastic ruin in N. Wales, is situated in a retired and picturesque glen, running N. out of that of the Dee. The rly. leaves it on the rt. The road to it runs up the l. side of the Dee, and the pedestrian may find it pleasant to follow at first the canal towing-path.

At 2 m. from Llangollen the road turns rt. out of that to Llandysilio,

ascends a steep rise which brings you in sight of the abbey.

The name, it has been happily suggested, comes from the valley here assuming the shape of a cross, in its ground plan, as may be seen by any one looking down on it from the hill above.

The most picturesque and perfect portion is the W. front of the Church, (E. Eng.), a pointed doorway, showing the tooth-moulding, surmounted by 3 tall lancets, and a wheel-window above, in the gable. On the external face, just below the wheel-window, is the inscription,

+ ADAM ABBAS FECIT HOC OPUS I
PACE QUIESCANT AMA.

The Abbey was of moderate size, and its site and plan conform to the rule of the Cistercian Order, for whom it was founded about 1200 by Madoc ap Gryffydd Maelor, Prince of Powys. The Ch. consisted of a nave of 5 bays and 2 aisles, a central tower now gone, transepts with chapels in their E. aisles, and a shallow chancel, once separated from the nave by a rood-screen, lighted at the E. end by 5 lancets while 2 side lancets flanked the high altar. Several inscribed tombstones and stone coffins and fragments of the tracery of a stone screen are preserved.

On the S. side of the Ch. there remains the *Chapter House*, stone vaulted and resting on 4 piers, now cleared out, but long used as farm-offices. The upper story, the old Dormitory, has a vaulted roof. This Chapter-house opened into the Cloister, now swept away; it was lighted by a singular Flamboyant window, still very perfect, outside of which is an elegantly groined recess.

Down the quiet valley, behind the abbey, runs a purling stream, dammed up to form a fishpond for the monks. The ruins, which were cleared out 1835 by Lord Duncannon and Mr. Wynne, now belong to Rice Wm. Thomas, Esq., of Coed

Helen, Carnarvon, and are well cared for.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. above the Abbey is the *Pillar of Eliseg*, erected, according to the original inscription, now defaced, early in the 9th cent. by Concen or Cyngen, in memory of his great-grandfather Eliseg, perhaps descended from Brochmael, prince of Powys. The modern inscription records that it was thrown down and mutilated during the rebellion, and replaced in 1779, as it at present stands, by Mr. Lloyd of Trevor Hall. It was once 12 ft. high. The broken shaft is now reduced to 6 ft. 8 in., and stands on a tumulus, which, when opened some years ago, disclosed a sepulchral chamber and a quantity of bones.

From the Abbey a road continues N. up the vale to meet the Ruthin and Wrexham road, at the Crown Inn, near Llandegla (Rte. 11), 8 m. from Llangollen. The scenery is very beautiful, especially in the neighbourhood of the slate-quarries and the pass of Bwlch Rhiw-felin.

Instead of returning to Llangollen, strangers should by all means follow the road up the l. bank of the Dee, passing Berwyn Inn, Bryntisilio, and Llandysilio, as far as Glyndyfrdwy Bridge (see p. 22). It is the prettiest part of the Llangollen valley.

Excursion b.—Down the Dee valley to Telford's Aqueduct, *Pont-y-Cysylltau* and the Rly. Viaduct. Here again the pedestrian will find the most pleasant way is to follow the Canal as far as Trevor Stat. (see above); after inspecting the Aqueduct, the journey may be continued (changing at Rhuabon to Chirk Stat., whence Chirk Castle may be visited—Rte. 1).

Excursion c.—The pedestrian may climb up to the *Eglwysseg Rocks*, a range of limestone cliffs, and follow the road to "*World's End*," where it terminates in a romantic *cul-de-sac*, where lime-kilns abound. *Eglwysseg Manor-House* (T. Jones, of

Llanerchrugog, Esq.), stands here, in the heart of woods and hills, one of the most ancient houses in Wales. Notice, outside, stone window (12th cent.) and huge chimneys. A carved oak bedstead, traditionally called "Prince Llewelyn's," is preserved here.

Llangollen to Corwen.—Rail and road.

By far the finest scenery of the Dee Valley lies above Llangollen. The river there makes some sweeping bends, which neither the rly. nor Telford Road adhere to closely. The traveller therefore should make a halt at

2 m. *Berwyn Stat.*, reached after crossing the Dee on a viaduct. From this stat., charmingly situated on a height above the river, you look down upon it and the picturesque small *Inn* (an angler's resort), and the chain foot-bridge leading to it.

Llandysilio village has an old *Church* (restored) with a good wooden roof, and a little further on is L. Hall, the mansion of W. B. Robertson, Esq. *Berwyn Stat.* is about 1 m. from Valle Crucis Abbey (see p. 21).

Here begins the *Shropshire Union* or *Ellesmere Canal*, whose headwaters are derived from the Dee by means of a weir, and are conducted 6 m. lower down through the Aqueduct of Pont-y-Cysylltau.

Llangollen valley here has all the elements of extreme beauty; the winding Dee, very finely wooded banks, and a surrounding of high mountains very picturesque in form. But its charms are lost to those who pass through in the train. To appreciate them, follow the Telford road for a mile, passing Plas Berwyn, seat of C. R. W. Tottenham, then cross the Dee by footbridge, and ascend the hills behind *Berwyn Inn*.

Here on a sunny slope above the l. bank of the Dee stands *Bryntysilio*, the residence of Lady Martin (Helen Faucit) and Sir Theodore Martin,

K.C.B., the biographer of the Prince Consort and translator of Horace and Catullus. It stands on the choicest spot in the valley, which it overlooks from its terraced gardens and heathery knolls, as far up as Corwen, with the river and village Ch. below, and the mountain outline above of Moel y Gamelin.

On quitting *Berwyn Stat.* the rly. traverses a tunnel; views are hid by trees. To enjoy the scenery, walk or drive up l. bank as far as

Glyndyfrdwy Stat. Bridge over Dee.

1. The railway passes rt. a mound 30 ft. high, covered with trees, called *Owain Glyndwr's Mount*, supposed to have been the site of one of his strongholds.

It is certain that he owned a large portion of this district, and it is said that on one spot on the Berwyns, above Corwen, he was accustomed to seat himself and survey more than 40 square m. of his patrimony. His very appellation, Glyndwr or Glyndyfrdwy, was derived from the "Glen of the waters of the Dee," as his real name was Owain ap Gryffydd. He was, as Shakespeare makes him declare, "brought up in the English court." He was a witness in the Scrope and Grosvenor controversy, and was a personal attendant on King Richard II., when that monarch was betrayed into the hands of Bolingbroke. The river separated his domain from that of Lord Grey of Ruthin, who claimed the hills to the N. of the Dee as his property; and although a lawsuit settled the case in favour of Glyndwr, Henry IV. so manifestly took the part of Lord Grey, that the quarrel was constantly fomented, and attacks and reprisals perpetually carried on, to the great destruction of life and property. Upon the attainder of Owain Glyndwr, the manor of Glyndyfrdwy was sold by Henry IV. to a 2nd son of Salisbury of Bachymbyd.

Carrog Stat., another Dee bridge.

As the rly. ascends, the valley becomes more open, shallow, and tame in scenery.

14 m., on the opposite bank of the Dee, is the pretty village of *Llanantffraid*, and the *Grouse Inn*.

16 m. CORWEN JUNCT. STAT. (Rte. 11) (*Inns*: Owain Glyndwr; Brown), a quiet little town, Pop. about 3000, consists of one long street, which derives its importance from its situation at the junction of railroads to Llangollen, Ruthin, and Bala. For fishermen, too, it is a capital station, but the general tourist will not find much to detain him. It is situated immediately at the foot of Moel Ferna (2050 ft.), the most northerly eminence of the Berwyn range; but though the valley is very pretty, it is rather monotonous and far from attaining the beauty of Llangollen. *Caer Drewyn*, 1 m. distant, is a large fortified post on the l. bank of the Dee, surrounded by a circle of loose stones. On the opposite side of the river, behind hotel and church, is *Pen-Pigin*, a lofty hill, from summit of which, marked by a flagstaff, there is a capital view of the vale of Corwen in retrospect, with the Eglwyseg hills and Castell Dinas Bran in the distance, and far away to N. the familiar height of Moel Fammau, near Denbigh.

The *Church*, restored by Mr. Ferrey, 1871, who added the S. aisle, has a fine old roof, and contains, in N. chancel aisle, a monumental semi-effigy to Sulien, at one time a vicar of Corwen. The upper and lower parts of the figure are in relief; the intermediate portion of the monument is flat, having the ecclesiastical vestments expressed by incised lines only. In the ch. wall is an incised cross called the *Sword of Glyndwr*, and part of a fine ch.-yd. cross. There is in Corwen an *Alms-house*, founded in 1709 by Mr. Eytton, for 6 widows of Merionethshire clergymen.

Distances.—Rlys. to Llangollen, 10 m.; Ruthin, 12; and Denbigh Bala, 12—by Vale of Edeyrnion, 13; Pentrevoelas, 15; Cerrig-y-Drudion, 10; Wrexham, 21.

At Corwen, Telford's Great Holyhead Road turns away from the Dee valley by Cerrig-y-Drudion and Pentrevoelas to Bettws-y-Coed and Bangor (Rte. 13).

Rail.—Corwen to Bala and Dolgelley.

The rly. to Dolgelley follows the rt. bank of the Dee, the valley here known as the vale of Edeyrnion. In the Hafod quarries carboniferous limestone fossils abound.

21 m., at the village of *Llandrillo Stat.* (*Inn*: the Dudley Arms), a road on l. ascends the glen of the Afon Dinam, to join at 3 m. that bleakest of all bleak mountain-roads, the Millingerig, which crosses the Berwyns between Bala and Llanfyllin (Rte. 27). An excursion of about 9 m. may be made from Llandrillo to *Pistyll Rhaiadr Waterfall*, above Llanrhaiadr Mochnant (Rte. 26A).

22 m. the Dee is very closely approached as the valley contracts, the railroad winding at the foot of a brow of great height covered with wood. 23 m. l. *Crogen* (a seat of Earl Dudley).

At 23½ m. cross the Dee at *Llandderfel Stat.* Bridge. A little away from the river is the village of *Llandderfel*. The *Church* is a specimen of Late Perp., about the time of Henry VIII., and contains a good *screen*; also a curious wooden horse in a recumbent position, known as St. Dervel's horse, which, together with the saint's staff, still preserved, used to be held in great veneration.

On l. is *Fronhaulog* (Dr. Richards), and on the opposite bank *Pale* (H. Robertson, Esq., M.P., a modern residence on the site of the old house). From Llanderfel it is 10 m. to Llan-gynog.

Soon after passing *Llanderfel Stat.*

the valley almost closes, and at Calettwr it finishes with a nobly-wooded eminence, above which soars the vast mass of the Arennigs.

29 m. **Bala Junct. Stat.** is $\frac{1}{2}$ m. distant from the town. Omnibuses thither, passing the lower end of lake, here dammed up by Telford's weir made to regulate the supply of water to the Ellesmere Canal. It is a pleasant walk commanding one of the best views of Bala Lake, including Cader Idris, S.W., the Arennigs, W., and the Aran Hills, S.

Bala has another Stat. for the Festiniog Rly.

28 m. *Bala (Inns: * White Lion, very comfortable; Plascoch, fair; Bull).* Bala is a regularly-built town of one long, broad street, with others intersecting it at right angles. Knitting is a favourite employment of most of the country folk, and the hands of the old women coming to market are rarely unoccupied. Bala shares with Dolgelley the assize business of the county of Merioneth. The town itself has no history attached to it. A *Tomen*, or tumulus, by the side of the road, at the entrance of the town from the Stat., is supposed to be of Roman origin, but is probably a more ancient *moot-hill*, or place of assembly. It is accessible by a winding path, and the key is kept at a cottage near the Green.

Christ Ch., on the Festiniog road, is a neat modern Gothic building.

Bala possesses a good grammar-school, and a *College for Calvinistic Methodists*, established in 1837 in honour of the Rev. Thomas Charles, one of the most shining lights that Welsh Dissent ever produced, to whom a marble *Statue*, by a Welsh artist, has been erected in front of the chapel. He was one of the founders of the B. and F. Bible Society. There are also two *Independent Colleges*, at which young men are educated for that ministry. This district has ever been a strong-

hold of Methodism. It has been equally celebrated for the beauty of its women. Lord Lyttleton declared "that he saw here the prettiest girls he ever beheld!"

Bala Lake.

Bala is situated at the foot of **Bala Lake**, *Llyn Tegid*, or *Pimblemere*, for by all these names is this fine sheet of water, the largest in Wales, known. The latter appellation is derived from *Pum Plwyf*, or the "lake of the 5 parishes," which border it. It is in length somewhat under 4 m., more than $\frac{1}{2}$ m. in breadth, and occupies a fair valley, whose direction is from S.W. to N.E. The horizon is bounded by the summits of the Berwyns on the S.E., the Arennigs N.W., and their subordinate hills.

It is a fine large sheet of water, but owing to the distance of the mountains and the gentle slope of intervening hills, its scenery is tame. It has a delta at either end. The circuit round its shores by road is a walk of 10 m., but at the S. end the pedestrian may halve the distance by taking the Rail (see below) at Llanuwchllyn Stat.

On the S. the river Dyfrdwy enters the lake, and has been supposed to be identical with the Dee, which emerges from the lower end. The tradition states that the waters of the Dee do not mix with those of the lake—

"That when Dee in his course faine in her lap
would lie
Commixtrous with her store, his streame
shee doth deny.
By his complexion prov'd, as he through her
doth glide,
Her wealth again from his shee likewise
doth divide."—*Drayton*.

A similar legend is told of the Rhone, in the Lake of Geneva, and various others. The depth of *Llyn Tegid* at *Bryngoleu*, about the middle, is 138 ft. Before Telford's regulation weir converted the lake into a reservoir, the effect of a strong wind from the W. blowing contin-



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ously was to raise the waters in the Dec. Hence Tennyson's allusion in 'Geraint and Enid':—

"Filled all the genial courses of his blood
With deeper and with ever deeper love,
At the South-west that blowing Bala lake
Fills all the sacred Dec."

Alas for the Poet's imagery! at the present day the Shropshire Union Canal Co. has usurped, in part at least, the functions of the West wind in filling the bed of the Dec.

The *Gwyniad* is a fish peculiar to these waters, and caught nowhere else in Wales. It is so called from the whiteness of its scales, belongs to the Salmonidæ, and is a species of the genus *Coregonus* (*C. fera*). It is very wary, and keeps mostly to the deep waters. The lake affords capital trout of large size, perch from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., roach and eels, also some magnificent pike. The right of fishing belonged to the monks of Basingwerk Abbey, but now to Sir Watkin H. Wynn, Bart., who has a shooting villa, Glan Llyn, on the N. side: he is liberal in giving permission to fish. Boats on the lake are kept by the landlords of the White Lion and the Plas-coch.

Excursions from Bala. § a. To the Arennig Mountains, by Festiniog Rly. (Rte. 21), and to Dinas Mawddwy and Aran Benllyn (Rte. 23).

b. To *Pistyll Rhaiadr Waterfall* (Rail to Llanderfel Stat. thence to Llangynog 12 m.) in the heart of the Berwyn chain (Rte. 26A).

On the N. shore of the lake, 2 m. from Bala, is *Rhivaedog* (bloody brow), an old seat of the Lloyds, now belonging to Mr. Price of Rhillas, retaining its old furniture.

The geology of this district is very interesting. "The sandstones, slates, and limestones are the absolute equivalents of the Caradoc shelly sandstone in Shropshire. The chief limestone of this group exposed in low hills near the town and lake of Bala is so impure that

it is now never used for burning, and, dwindling away to the S.S.W., is lost among the slaty strata. The fossils are identical with those imbedded in the flanks of Caer Caradoc."—*Siluria*.

Railways to Festiniog 19 m. (Rte. 21), to Llangollen.

Corwen, 13 m.; Llyn Arennig, $6\frac{1}{2}$; Llandrillo, 8; Dinas Mawddwy, 18; Llangollen, 22; Tan-y-Bwlch, 22.

Bala to Dolgelley, 18 m.—*Rail*.

There are good carriage roads along either side of Bala Lake. The Rly. to Dolgelley runs parallel with that along the E. shore. On the opposite bank may be seen the village of Llanycil, and several country seats, including Glan Llyn, a shooting-box of Sir Watkin Wynn, Bart., who has a private station on the rly.

Llanuwchllyn Stat. (Inn: Goat) In the Ch., rebuilt 1872, is a monument of a knight in armour, 1370, whose duty it was to escort the Judges of Assize, and protect them from banditti in the mountains. In this parish, under Duallt hill, rise the Dec. 2 m. N. Caergos, site of a Roman Stat.

1. A road from this to Dinas Mawddwy, 13 m., and Mallwyd crosses the Aran Mtns. by the Pass of Bwlch-y-Groes (Rte. 23).

The rly. next ascends the bleak and dreary valley of the Dyfrdwy, the chief feeder of Bala Lake and of the Dee, taking its source from the summits of the Aran Benllyn, which rises on the l. of the line, to a height of 2955 ft. The rly. reaches its summit level and the watershed, where the streams part, E. for the Dee at Chester, and W. for the Bay of Barmouth at

Drws-y-Nant Stat. $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from this is an Inn well known to anglers. The ascent of Aran Mawddwy can be made from this.

The valley of the Wnion is henceforth followed through 9 miles of

romantically wooded country, with occasional glimpses of the fine outline of Cader Idris, which is especially well seen near

Bont Newydd Stat., near a bridge over the Wnion, and not far from (l.) Caerynweh (seat of Mrs. Richards), in whose grounds is "*the Torrent Walk*" (see p. 27), and Dolserau (Chas. Edwards, Esq.), while the heights on the rt. are occupied by the Park of Nannau, seat of the Vaughans (see p. 27).

Dolgelley Junct. Stat., close to the stone Bridge over the Wnion, leading to the town. This stat. is shared between the Gt. Western and Cambrian Rlys. *Inns*:—there is great want of a good Inn—near the stat., Golden Lion;—Ship, in the Market-place, small, but perhaps the best; civil people.

Dolgelley (the Dale of the Hazel Groves), Pop. 2800, the chief place in Merioneth, is a dull town of grey stone houses, but placed in the midst of the most beautiful scenery in Wales, surrounded by mountains of great grandeur, the chief of them, Cader Idris, rising at its back. It is the centre of many charming excursions, to explore which may occupy several days. It contains nothing of great interest, unless the tourist be content to admire the County Gaol, the Shire Hall, the National Schools, and 4 or 5 large Dissenting places of worship.

It has lost its one historic relic. An old rough stone, tumble-down house, that stood near the Ship Inn, known by tradition as *Owen Glendower's Parliament-house*. It was really the residence of Baron Owen, who was murdered by the Mawddwy banditti.

The *Church* is a very plain modern building, attached to an old tower, its roof supported on wooden posts. It retains a stone effigy of a knight in hauberk and hood of chain-mail, in the fashion of 13th cent., Maurice

son of Ynyr, an ancestor of the Vaughans of Nannau. Here is also a mont. to Baron Richards.

Old Fuller quaintly describes Dolgelley as "having walls 3 miles high," by which he implied that it was surrounded by mountains: also that men must enter it over the water and leave it under the water. The latter enigma is explained by there being a path leading out of the town which is carried under a water-trough from a mill.

A considerable trade is carried on in the manufacture of a coarse kind of woollen cloth, which goes by the name of '*Welsh Webs*;' this, together with currying and tanning, gives employment to a good number of people. The woollen goods manufactured by 'John Meyrick Jones,' of this town, enjoy a reputation far beyond the limits of the Principality. The assizes are held here alternately with Bala.

Railways.—To Bala and Llangollen (Chester and Shrewsbury), Rte. 3—to Barmouth (10 m.), Rte. 3A, leading to Machynlleth, Harlech, Portmadoc, and Caernarvon (Rte. 3A-24).

Walks.—These are numerous, varied, and very pleasing. § a. The banks of the Aran stream descending from the hill at the back of the town, which turns the wheels of several cloth and fulling mills, past Pand y Mill, deserve exploring, and the artist may find in it and the following many subjects for his pencil.

Just beyond the bridge and Stat., on the right bank of the river, a cartway strikes up the hill, close to the Rly. Stat., which leads to a field-path, commanding lovely views of Cader Idris. If the path be followed, you can descend by it to the ruins of *Cymmer Abbey*, in the vale of Mawddach (see Rte. 22).

The *Torrent Walk*. About 1½ m. E. of Dolgelley, the Bala Rly. crosses a small stream which falls into the Wnion near Pont Newydd Stat. A

well-kept path, carried on rude steps and terraces, up a shady glen about 1 m. long, is the Torrent Walk, through scenes picturesque, but not of the highest order. It is reached from Dolgelley by following the Machynlleth road and taking a cart-road on l., which leads to the mouth of the glen. The mountain stream tumbles among boulder stones, rocks, stunted oaks, and fern brakes, until it falls into the Wnion. It forms part of the grounds of Caerynwch, and as the owner liberally admits strangers, they are in duty bound to refrain from any trespass, such as rooting up the ferns or damaging the walk or seats. At the end of a mile there is an outlet into the high road near a lodge, about 1 m. from the Cross Foxes Inn (see Rte. 28), and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Dolgelley.

Excursions.—§ a. To *Cymmer Abbey*, in the Vale of the Mawddach (see Rte. 22), about $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. by high road, passing Hengwert, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. by footpath mentioned above, crossing the Rly. bridge and turning l. up the hill across fields. Cymmer Abbey is on the road to *Tyn-y-Groes Inn*, 5 m., and the *Waterfalls*, 3 or 4 more, crossing the Bridge over Mawddach river at Llanelytd, and ascending the valley by road on rt. bank (for description see Route 22).

§ b.—To *Nannau* and the *Precipice Walk*. Stretching over the hill tops in the angle between the valley of the Wnion and that of the Mawddach, extend the wild park, woods, and meaths of *Nannau*, 3 m. N., the seat of John Vaughan, Esq., inherited from the late Sir Robert W. Vaughan, Bart. The road to it, turning rt. after crossing Dolgelley Bridge, is an ascent all the way, and, after passing the lodge and a rude arch, leads through a natural dingle of forest-trees to the mansion, a modern edifice, built of very dark stone, but its situation is fine, on the top of a bare precipitous hill. Here was once

the residence of Howel Sele, the relation, though bitter enemy, of Owain Glyndwr. In the park, not far from the house, a sun-dial marks the spot where stood an oak of 27 ft. girth, which was destroyed by lightning in 1813, bearing the name of the *Spirit's Blasted Tree*, from the following legend:—The Abbot of Cymmer endeavoured to reconcile Owain Glyndwr with Howel Sele, and for this purpose got them to meet together in Nannau Park. The interview, however, had a tragical end, for, whether by treachery, or in a moment of passion, Owain shot Howel to the heart with an arrow. The victim's body he then hid in this hollow tree. Notwithstanding every search, Howel's body was not found for more than 40 years after. The spot even now is looked upon with dread by superstitious country-folk, who consider it to be the resort of evil spirits. It is mentioned in Walter Scott's 'Marmion,' and Lord Lytton has selected it as the scene of his romance of Arthur:—

"Of evil fame was Nannau's antique tree,
Yet styled the hollow oak of Demonrie."

S. of the house the mountain called Moel Cynwch, towers above the vale of the Mawddach, and at its foot lies a small tarn, Llyn Cynwch, 3 minutes' walk from the house. Leaving this lake on the l. and crossing a stile, a path will be found leading (rt.) round the shoulder of Moel Cynwch. This emerges into the *Precipice Walk*, carried at a dizzy height above the Mawddach valley, over rock, turf, and screes, in places not more than 2 ft. wide, along the face of the precipice. The view from this is superb, N. over the Snowdon range, with Tyn-y-Groes in the depth below. (It may be reached from this by a steep descent; no path.) To the W. rises Rhobell, and l. of it the estuary of the Mawddach gradually opens out—as

far as Barmouth railway bridge and the sea. To the S. Cader Idris appears in its full length and height.

The path is continued round the back of the hill to Cynweh Pool and the archway and entrance lodge to the park, where carriages may be put up in a shed. Or the pedestrian may descend upon Llanelltyd Bridge and Cymmer Abbey (p. 137).

The walk will occupy about 3 hrs., 8 m. from Dolgelley. Cars or ponies may be taken as far as the Lodge, or may be sent round to meet the travellers at Llanelltyd Bridge.

§ c.—The drive to *Barmouth*, 10 m. by road, is one of the most beautiful in Wales, and its beauties are hid from those who take the rly. train. The new Towyn road is followed as far as the wooden bridge over Mawddach, at Penmaen Pool Stat. This shortens the distance to Barmouth by 1 m. (see Rte. 3A).

§ d. *Cader Idris*. The excursion *par excellence*, which every visitor to Dolgelley makes, is of course to the summit of *Cader Idris* (about $6\frac{1}{2}$ m.), which towers directly over the town to a height of 2929 ft. (See Special Map.)

"Idris that, like warrior old,
His batter'd and fantastic helmet rears,
Scattering the elements' wrath, frowns o'er
his way
A broad irregular duskiness."—*Milman*.

This magnificent mountain ridge runs in a direction from E.N.E. to W.S.W., presenting to the N. a rugged broken line of precipices 4 m. long.

On the S. side the escarpments are confined to the upper or eastern end, secondary and less broken ranges succeeding and filling up the large area between Towyn and Barmouth; indeed the outliers of Cader Idris may be said to extend to the Dyfi.

Guide's charge is 5s.; ponies can be obtained for 11s., including a guide or boy to lead them. The same precautions about fogs and clouds extend to the ascent of this moun-

tain that are detailed under the head of Snowdon, but to a very much less degree; and if the weather is tolerably fine no moderate pedestrian need fear to ascend alone.

There are several tracks, any one of which may be followed; but the most direct route is by the old or mountain road to Towyn for about 2 m. At 2 m. rt. is Llyn Gwernan (*Inn*), after reaching which a stile over the wall on the l. gives access to a path, leading without difficulty to a small lake called Llyn-y-gafr. Above this arises a steep but easily climbed bluff to *Llyn-y-gader*, a very deep tarn placed at the foot of the Cader in a magnificent amphitheatre of cliffs, up which at first appearance there does not seem any hope of making a way. There is an echo here, which repeats in a marvellously clear manner. The way now lies up a very fatiguing and steep path of debris and broken stones, known as Llwybyr Cadnaw or 'The Foxes' Path,' which necessitates care and the free use of hands and feet. The guides usually descend this path instead of ascending. Once upon the smooth turf again, it is easy walking to Pen-y-gader, the highest point of the range (said to be 2929 ft.), where there is a large Ordnance cairn and a rude hut of colossal stones built by the guides. It will not bear comparison with the Snowdon huts, as the state of the interior is such that it would take the wildest weather to induce a visitor to tenant it for half-an-hour. The 2 other eminences are on each side the Cader; they are the Mynydd Moel, near Dolgelley, and Tyrrau Mawr on the W. A few minutes' walking from the Cader will bring the pedestrian to the brink of the cliffs overhanging *Llyn-y-Cau*, a tarn, shut in by the fearfully steep cliffs and a narrow corrie, which, though on a smaller scale, is about the grandest

bit of scenery on the mountain. Both this lake and Llyn-y-gader are said to nourish the Welsh char, or torgoch in their waters. A decent cragsman may carefully descend the gullies to the banks of the lake and make his way down to Tal-y-Llyn; but the most general route for visiting it is from Minffordd or Ty'n-y-Cornel.

The view from the summit of Cader Idris on a clear day is one from which it is very difficult to tear oneself. It is of course not so extensive as from Snowdon. To the N. the most conspicuous points are the promontory of Llyn, with Carn Madryn and Yr Eifl (or Rivals) in bold jagged outline; then come Moel Hebog and the peak of Moel-y-Wyddfa, a little to the l. of which Anglesey is seen filling up the hiatus. To these succeed Moel Siabod, Moelwyn, and the Festiniog range; the Arennigs, with the broad lake of Bala at their feet, backed up with the Clwydian range and Moel Famau, in the extreme distance. Southwards we have the coast of Pembrokeshire, St. David's Head, and the long line of Cardigan Bay; while more inland the long rounded ridges of the Montgomeryshire chains, including Plinlymmon and the Long Mountain, succeed each other like so many gigantic waves. At our feet we have Barmouth and the estuary of the Mawddach, backed up by the lofty ridge of Llawlech and the Rhinogs, Trawsfynydd, and the valleys of the Eden and the Wnion. The views, like all Welsh mountain-scenes, depend very much on the weather and the lights and shades. The visitor, if fortunate, may obtain such a view as he will never forget, or he may have his walk for almost nothing. Geologically considered, Cader Idris is an igneous rock, principally composed of amygdaloidal greenstone, "that slopes down the mountain towards Llyn-y-Cau. Under it are masses of

felspathic trap and long lines of greenstone, interbedded with altered slate, forming the steep N. cliff of the mountain, and overlooking the high valley between the cliff and Llyn-y-gader, which is itself formed almost entirely of felspathic ashes and conglomerate, with interbedded lines of greenstone, the whole dipping under the igneous rocks of the cliffs."—*Ramsay*. The Lingula flags underlie these. The geologist who gazes from the summit of the Cader cannot fail to be struck with the difference of the view N. and S. On the S. we have long rolling hills, with smooth swelling outlines, through which numbers of valleys have been excavated. These are the lower Silurian rocks of the Caradoc or Bala age. To the N. are broken rugged outlines, jagged peaks, and serrated ridges rising sharply and definedly into the sky. These mountains have been formed of repeated interstratifications of slate and felspathic traps and greenstone, which have been greatly disturbed and thrown into synclinals and anticlinals. The softer slate-beds have been worn away by denudation, while the harder igneous rocks have resisted the action and stand out in bold relief.

The pedestrian who does not descend by the Foxes' Path may be recommended to follow the shoulders, as they incline towards the Machynlleth road to the S.E. Very beautiful views of Tal-y-Llyn are obtained by this route. After about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. walking, a small tarn, Llyn Aran, is seen under the cliffs, from which the little river Aran runs direct to Dolgelley. As soon as practicable the descent should be made, and the river followed through a very picturesque ravine; the path brings you into the town, underneath the "running water" of which old Fuller speaks. The ascent takes from 3 to 4 hours.

ROUTE 3A.

DOLGELLEY TO BARMOUTH.

9½ m. rail; 4 trains daily in 1½ to 2 hrs. This railway belongs to the Cambrian Company, but uses the same stat. as the Gt. Western. It crosses, on quitting Dolgelley, the Wnion, a little above its junction with the Mawddach, and continues along its S. side as far as Barmouth; splendid views are obtained N. and S., but they are better seen from the high road.

Penmaen Pool Stat. A convenient bridge, built by the railway company, crosses the river from the stat., replacing a ferry, and leads into the Mawddach valley, as well as to Barmouth.

Below this the river expands into a broad estuary, which, though nearly dry at low tide, presents the appearance of a broad lake at high water.

Arthog Stat., near a small village. *Inn*: Arthog Hall Hotel, standing on a height near a wooded dell, up which runs a pleasant walk, entered from the hotel grounds, enlivened by pretty waterfalls. Views of Barmouth, the Estuary, and Diphwys Mountain, N.; a part of the range of Cader Idris, S.

[The ascent of Cader Idris can be made from this, passing an old house, Llys Bradwyn, and crossing the Towyn road about 6 m. from Dolgelley.]

Between the broad estuary of the Mawddach and the sea stretches the long *Railway Bridge*, of wood, except at the N. end, where it is of iron,

and opens with a lift to allow vessels to pass. It is ½ m. long, and is provided with a way for foot-passengers (toll 2d.), as well as for the trains. Near its S. extremity is

Barmouth Junct. Stat., where the Dolgelley line falls into that from Towyn, Machynlleth, and Aberystwyth to Harlech, 10 m., and Caernarvon (Rte. 24). A change of trains is often necessary here, involving a considerable delay.

Dolgelley to Barmouth by Road is preferable to the railway, because it commands better views of the scenery, which is truly enchanting with fine weather and at high water.

Instead of taking the old road past Dolgelley Bridge and station, it is better to quit Dolgelley by the Lower Towyn road, leading to the Bridge at Penmaen Pool Stat. Here the river Mawddach is crossed some way below its junction with the Wnion, rt.

Our road here turns l., running along the base of well-wooded heights studded with pretty country seats with the river on the l. About 5 m. from Dolgelley, high up on the hill above the Mawddach Valley, rises the chimney of the *Gold Mine of Vigna Clogan*, the property of the Crown. The gold occurs in quartz lodes, traversing the Lingula Flags formation; but they are sterile except in the neighbourhood of intrusive rocks (diabase). The mine produced in 1860, 163l.; in 1861, 6030l.; in 1862, 24,000l.; (6,181 oz., from 620 tons of vein stuff), or an average of about 2,500l. per annum down to 1867. At present the yield is very small.

At Bonddu is the Halfway House Hotel, and near it are the seats of S. Holland, Esq., M.P., *Cuerdeon* and *Bryntirion*, W. J. Beale, Esq.

The drive from this to Barmouth

along a road partly terraced in the rock, admirably shaded with fine trees, overlooking the broad estuary of the Mawddach, backed by the range of Cader Idris, and terminating in the sea beyond the Rly. Viaduct, is not to be surpassed for beauty in all Wales.

Barmouth Stat., about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the Rly. Bridge. *Inns*: Corsygedol Arms; Barmouth H., a large house near the stat.; Lion (commercial).

Post Office.—Letters to and from London 3 times daily.

English Service on Sunday at St. David's and at Caerleon Ch.

House Agent.—James Kynock, private hotel and restaurant, High St., may be consulted about lodgings.

Barmouth (Welsh, Abermaw) stands in the angle between the estuary of the Mawddach and the sea, at the end of a high, slate promontory of the Llawllech hills. The small houses of the old town clustering, tier above tier against the cliff, are nearly elbowed out of sight by tall modern streets and villas, which occupy the foreshore. Its sheltered position, fine mountain views, with the Mawddach, a wide salt lake at high water, an expanse of sand at low, and a beach well suited for bathing, make it an attractive watering-place for winter as well as summer.

Its great drawback is the plague of sand wafted from the shore, at times filling the air.

The Railway Bridge across the estuary (see p. 30) forms an admirable Promenade from which the view of the sea, the river, and surrounding mountains is well seen.

Walks and Excursions.—The hills behind the town afford many, commanding fine views; the numerous footpaths are approached by stone steps from the centre of the town and from a lane behind the Corsy-

gedol Arms. The *Panorama Walk*, a sort of natural terrace above the road to Dolgelley, and affording similar but more extensive prospects, is 2 m. distant, and is best reached by a steep lane at the end of Porkington Terrace. From it you may descend to the Dolgelley Road, and return to Barmouth, total distance $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.

N.B.—The *Drive along the Dolgelley Road*, at high water, is one of the most lovely in Wales. Cader Idris, with its rugged outlines and deep *cwm*s, is the striking feature in the views.

§ b. To *Llanaber*, the Parish Ch. of Barmouth (see Rte. 24), $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.

§ c. To *Corsygedol House* (Rte. 24).

ROUTE 4.

CHESTER TO BANGOR, BY FLINT, RHYL, ABERGELE, CONWAY [LLANDUDNO], PENMAENMAWR, AND ABER.

Chester Junction Stat., a spacious edifice, cost about 230,000*l*. *Railways* to Bangor, 60 m., and Holyhead, 84 m. (Irish Mail); to Liverpool by Birkenhead, 16 m.; to Liverpool by Runcorn; to Crewe, 21 m., and London, 187 m.; to Warrington; to Manchester, 21 m.; to Wrexham, 11 m.; Rhuabon and Oswestry; to Rhuabon, Shrewsbury, 42 m.; to Whitechurch, Wem, and Shrewsbury; to Mold, 13 m., and Denbigh; to Llangollen, 24 m.

Inns: The Queen's Hotel at the stat. belongs to L. & N. W. Ry. Co.; Grosvenor H., in Eastgate; both first class, but expensive. Post horses and waggonettes kept.

Post Office in St. John's Street.

Lunch rooms and pastry cook,
Bolland, Eastgate, Row.

Chester (Pop. 36,788), a cathedral city and the county town of Cheshire, stands on the rt. bank of the river Dee, which nearly encircles it, on the highway between London and Dublin, and is a centre of great thoroughfares to Liverpool, Manchester, Crewe, Shrewsbury, &c. It is also one of the portals leading into N. Wales.

It is a very ancient city, occupying the site of the Roman *Deva*, called also *Castra Legionis*, from the XXth Legion, posted here, and it was styled by the Britons, *Caer Leon*. Its ground-plan of four main streets meeting in the centre is the usual arrangement of Roman camps and towns.

Besides being a place of commerce and traffic, and a seaport on the Dee, it possesses many objects of interest to the stranger in its ancient *Walls* which still surround the old town, and offer an agreeable circuit walk; in the *Rows* and some *old houses*, as well as in its Cathedral and Norman *Ch. of St. John* outside the walls.

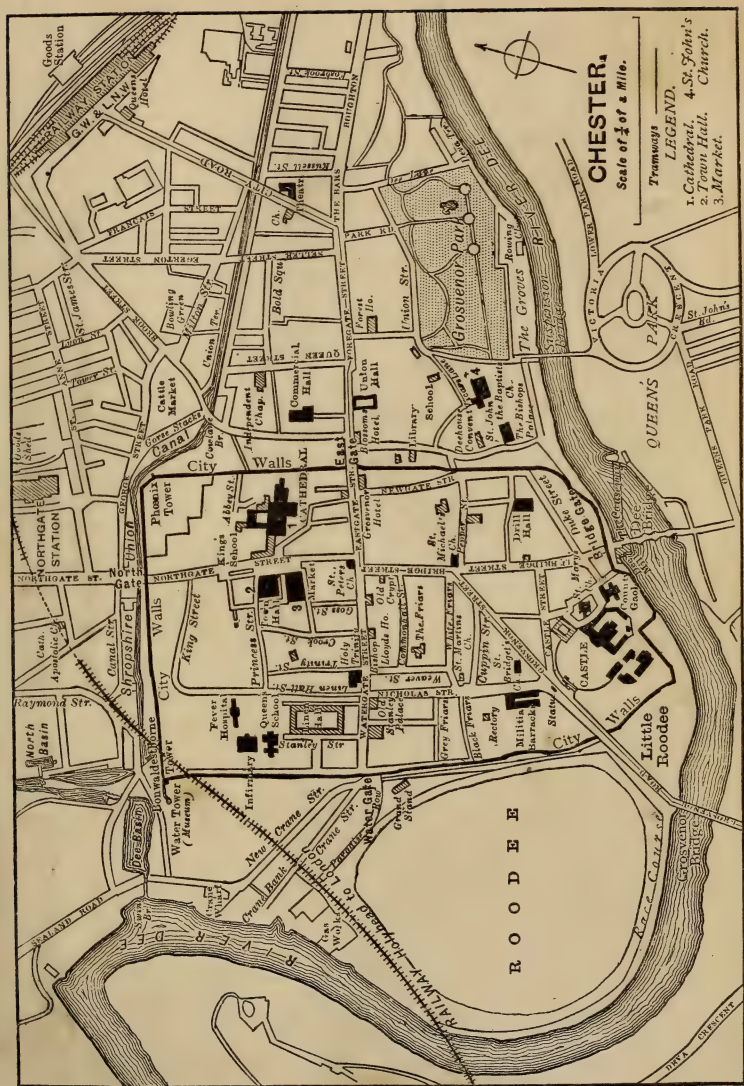
The visitor to Chester, by taking a cab or the convenient Tram-car at the stat., will pass quickly through half a mile of monotonous modern suburb, and may be set down at the archway leading into the old town by the Eastgate. He will have the Cathedral on his rt., or he may continue on to the crossing where the 4 streets meet. Northgate-street on the rt. will lead him to the Town-hall and W. front of the Cathedral. Bridge-street, running S., will conduct him to the Castle and Grosvenor Bridge. Near the Crossing of the 4 streets, and especially in Watergate and Bridge-streets, there are some of the oldest and most picturesque houses, and here are to be seen

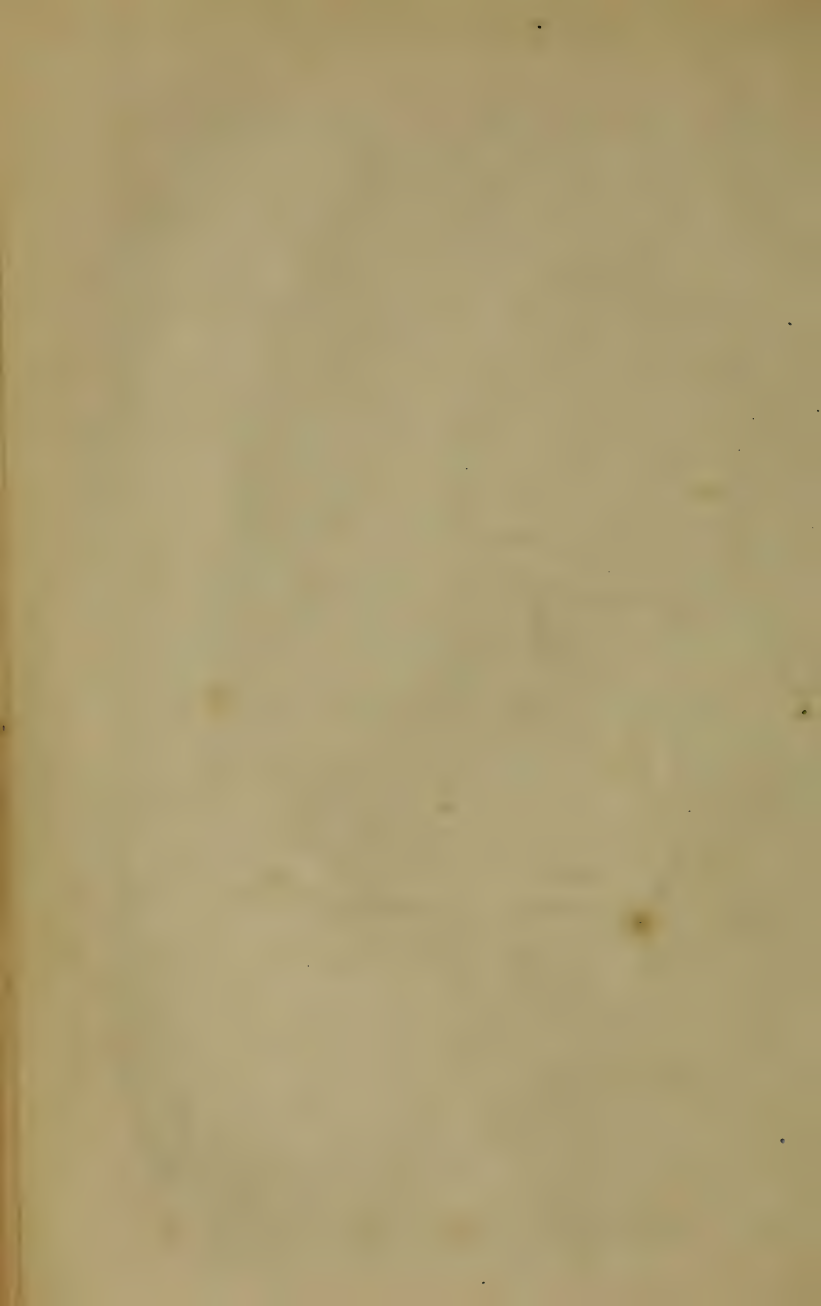
**The Rows*, the peculiar feature of the streets of Chester. These are

covered ways formed by throwing open the front first floors of the houses in the 4 main streets, leaving only pillars to support them, and allowing the public free passage through them. They are lined with shops, which are the best in Chester. Beneath this covered way is another row of shops, on a level with the street. The most picturesque of the old timber-framed houses have carved gables and beams, some showing that particular style of ornamented plaster-work known as "pargetting," in which the patterns are raised or indented upon it. Many shops have been rebuilt in the same antique fashion. One of these old tenements is on the S. side of Watergate-street, and has carved on a beam "God's Providence is mine inheritance, 1652," alluding to the time when the plague devastated the city, the inhabitants of this house being almost the only ones who escaped. In the same street, lower down, is *Bishop Lloyd's* residence, 1615, of which the whole front is enriched with carvings of scriptural subjects and armorial bearings. Another ornamented house, known as the Palace of the *Stanley family*, 1591, is approached through a narrow passage nearly opposite Trinity Ch.

In Bridge-street No. 117, are a *Hypocaust* and remains of a Roman sweating bath, in a cellar underneath the shop. It is minutely described by Pennant ('*Tours in Wales*,' Vol. I. iii. 12). A Gothic vault or crypt with an E. E. doorway was also discovered in 1830 in the same street.

**The Cathedral* stands in the angle between Eastgate and Northgate; and the best view of it is from the city walls. The original ch. was in the 10th cent. dedicated to St. Werburgh. In its place was founded, about 1100, a Benedictine abbey which lasted till 1541





when it became the cathedral of the see of Chester, founded by Henry VIII. and endowed with the abbey revenues, amounting to 1073*l*. Though not ranking in size among the first class of English cathedrals, it is full of interest and has parts of great beauty. It was unfortunately built of a perishable quality of New Red Sandstone, which had become so thoroughly dilapidated in process of time, that few of the stones touched at the angles, and the masonry looked like a pile of cannon-balls. This is the justification of the very extensive restoration and repairs made under the care of Sir Gilbert Scott, and undertaken 1870-78 at the suggestion, and completed through the exertions, of Dean Howson. The faulty masonry has been replaced by sound stone from Runcorn quarries, and many other needful repairs have been made, besides much internal enrichment, at a total cost of 90,000*l*.

By the S. W. porch, or by the great W. door, approached from the Market-Place through the *Abbot's* battlemented *Gateway*, the nave is entered by a descent of 2 flights of steps. It is 145 ft. long; its main arcade (Dec., 14th cent.) supports a tall Perp. clerestory). The piers and walls at the W. end enclose parts of the original Norm. Ch., and other fragments are visible in the cloisters. The wooden roof of the central nave and the stone vaulting of its aisles are modern. Similar to the nave in style and date is the very long S. transept, formerly shut off from the ch., and used as the Parish Ch. of St. Oswald.

The very short N. transept is closed by the *Organ*, raised on an elaborately carved Gothic loft, supported by superb marble pillars brought from Italy, the gift of the Duke of Westminster, who, with other natives and landowners of Cheshire, contributed liberally to the restoration of this cathedral.

[N. Wales.]

Behind the organ is the monument, a marble altar-tomb, with recumbent effigy of *Bishop Pearson*, author of "The Exposition of the Creed," one of the worthies of this cathedral.

The N. transept and nave and aisles adjoining show interesting fragments of the Norm. Ch., and in the *Vestry* is a chest bound with elegant hammered scroll work of iron.

The *Choir* of 5 bays is E. Eng. and part Dec.; it is 78 ft. high and 123 ft. long. It owes much of its effect to the beauty of the tabernacle work and carving of the *Stalls*, which have been freed from the paint which covered them, and are not surpassed in any other cathedral. *Obs.* the carving of Scripture subjects, showing considerable artistic skill, especially near the Dean's stall: the Stem of Jesse is a good sample of 15th-cent. work. The *Bishop's Throne* is a very creditable modern work, as is also the *Pulpit*, the gift of the Freemasons of Chester.

The altar is composed of rare woods brought from the Holy Land; the table is a slab of oak from Bashan; cedar from Lebanon, and olive-wood from Gethsemane, form the carved and inlaid panels, and the reredos is a mosaic from Murano, near Venice.

The elaborate brass lectern is a votive offering from a lady of Chester.

The choir aisles originally ended in apses, of which there are still architectural traces, and the line of the foundation wall has been marked by black stones in the pavement. The S.E. apse was rebuilt in the ancient form which had been quite obliterated, by the Brassey Brothers as a memorial to Thomas Brassey, the rly. contractor, a native of Cheshire (b. at Aldford, nr. Eaton).

In the S. choir-aisle near it is an altar-tomb said to commemorate the Emperor Henry IV. of Germany, but nobody can account for his being here: 3 stone coffins let into the wall are supposed to be of abbots or

abbesses. The *Lady Chapel* is a very elegant structure, and a good specimen of E. Eng., lighted by triplet lancet windows at the sides, and a window of 5 lights at E. end.

Some fragments of the carved stone tracery of *St. Werburgh's Shrine*, part of which long served as a pedestal to the Bishop's Throne, are preserved in the S. choir aisle.

There is much modern painted glass, but nothing to extol.

No one should leave the Cathedral without seeing the *Chapter-house*, also of the best E. Eng. style, entered from the *Cloisters* through a Vestibule, stone vaulted and groined, resting on 4 reeded shafts, very elegant. The windows of the Chapter H. of triplet lancets have detached shafts. It contains the Chapter Library, and in it is appropriately placed a marble bust of the Rev. Charles Kingsley, for 3 years a Canon of Chester.

The *Cloisters* are mostly Perp., one side has been rebuilt; a few of the carrels or square cells where the monks sat to study or to copy MSS., remain. Along the N. Wall ran the *Refectory*, long used as a grammar school, and much altered, but retaining some E. E. arches, and especially the *Lector's Pulpit* and stair leading up to it—a very fine example of a rare feature, the like of which also exists at Beaulieu, Hants.

The antiquary and architect will be repaid by a visit to the old *Ch. of St. John*, just outside the walls, but easily reached from Eastgate St., or from the Grosvenor Park, which it closely adjoins. It is but a fragment (the nave) of a fine Early Norman Ch., of which the choir and transcripts were destroyed, 1574, by the fall of the central tower. A Saxon Ch., founded by Earl Ethelred, is said to have occupied the site. It is now reduced to a stately nave of 6 bays, the main arches resting on cylinder piers 5 ft. 6 in. in

diameter, supporting a double row of light-pointed triforium arches.

In 1881 the massive detached tower at the W. end fell, and crushed a fine porch in its fall. The frequent dilapidations of this building have been due to the same very friable red sandstone, the decay of which rendered the restoration of the cathedral so indispensable.

At the E. end are scanty ruins of the demolished chancel. This Ch. was restored by Hussey, and the late Marquis of Westminster contributed mainly to defray the expense. A large part of the outer walls was rebuilt.

A pleasant walk through Grosvenor Park leads from St. John's, by Park Road and City Road to the rly. stat.

Trinity Ch. in Watergate, rebuilt 1869, contains the graves of Matthew Henry, the Commentator, a Nonconformist, and of Parnell, the poet, Archdeacon of Clogher, d. 1718, whose family were connected with Congleton, in this county.

The Castle, as it at present stands, is a modern Grecian edifice, misnamed a castle. The building which preceded it was originally Norman, the work of Hugh Lupus, or, perhaps, a Roman fortress. The wings are a military barrack, while the centre comprises the Shire Hall, Assize Court, and County Gaol. It is used for military purposes, a detachment of soldiers being usually stationed here, and a large store of arms is kept, the object of a foolish raid of the Fenians in 1867, which fortunately was frustrated. Only one portion of the old building is left, a square tower, called *Cæsar's Tower*, used as a powder-magazine, within which is a chapel with a vaulted and groined roof. From its commanding position on the Dee, the Castle is an important feature in Chester views.

In the space fronting the Castle is

an equestrian statue in bronze, by Marochetti, of Field-Marshal *Visct. Combermere*, a native of Cheshire.

Beyond the Castle the Dee is crossed by the *Grosvenor Bridge*, remarkable for the wide span (200 ft.) of its handsome stone arch, and its ample roadway: the architect was the late Thos. Harrison (1832). It, or the adjacent *City Walls*, command a fine view of the *Roodee* or Roodeye, famous in the annals of horse-racing as being the ground on which the Chester Cup is run for. In 1540 a bell of silver, of the value of three and sixpence or more, was annually given by the Saddler's Company "to him who shall run the best on horseback." The course is about a mile round, and with the ancient town walls and the rising ground across the river girdling it in, it forms an amphitheatre, and affords, when the enormous mass of people gathers to see the races, perhaps the only sight capable to be compared with a Roman spectacle. But it is much too small for the stride and number of thorough-bred horses that are brought to run there, and bad accidents have occurred. The Cup race is run in May. The Cheshire Yeomany Cavalry are manoeuvred here.

The other public buildings in Chester are the *Town Hall*, modern Gothic, in Northgate-street, the *Market House* adjoining, and the *Music Hall*, built on the site of the chapel of St. Nicholas.

Mysteries and pageants were at one time, as at Shrewsbury, a great feature in Chester life, and during Whitsun week a succession of brave sights was enacted for the delight of the spectators in the Rows. They were abolished by the Corporation in 1678.

The **City Walls* form a square, enclosing the inner and older town. They vary in height from 12 to 40 ft., and in their present state date from the 15th and 16th cents., but stand

on Roman foundations. The old gates, destroyed in the 18th cent., have been replaced by modern arches that admit of a narrow but uninterrupted circuit walk upon them of nearly 2 m., affording pleasing views of the cathedral and chief buildings of the town within and of the suburbs outside. During the Middle Ages the *Gates* were entrusted to the care of the heads of noble families in the county, whose duty was to defend them from the "Wild Welsh" and other enemies. Thus the Watergate was entrusted to the Stanleys, Earls of Derby; the Eastgate to the Hungerford's, ancestors of Lord Crewe; the Bridgegate to the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury, while the citizens themselves kept watch over the Northgate. The walls are accessible by flights of steps at convenient places.

Starting from the Eastgate, near which there is the best view of the Cathedral, we come to *Phoenix Tower*, so called from its being marked with a phoenix, the crest of the Painters and Stainers' Company, the tower having been used as a chamber of business by various city companies. From the summit, Charles I. had the grief of seeing his army, under Sir Marmaduke Langdale, defeated at Rowton Moor, Sept. 27, 1645, by the Parliamentary force under General Pointz. The Shropshire Union canal flows underneath, through a deep cutting in the new red sandstone. Between the tower and the N. gate remains of Roman masonry are visible.

Continuing over Northgate we come to a curious watch-tower, called *Morgan's Mount*, having a chamber below and a platform above, on which a battery and earthwork was raised during the siege in the Civil War with great effect against the besiegers. Near this may be seen, rt., the Diocesan Training College. A little further and we come to *Pember-*

ton's Parlour, a fragment of a tower repaired in the reign of Q. Anne. On the l. rises the Infirmary. From this division of the wall the view extends to the hills of the Vale of Clwyd, the Valley of the Dee, and to Beeston Hills and Castle.

At the N.W. angle is the *Water Tower*, projecting some little distance from the wall, and approached by a turret known as *Bonvaldesthorne's Tower*, from which there is an open embattled gallery, having below it a circular arch, beneath which the tide flowed previous to the embankment of the Dee. The Water Tower was erected in 1322, and still preserves the marks of the mooring-places for vessels. There is now a museum in it. The Chester and Holyhead Rly. is carried underneath this angle of the wall.

Crossing over Watergate, the wall is carried across the roadway and skirts round the Roodee (see above) to Grosvenor Bridge. The path next runs under the castle walls by the side of the Dee, here very picturesque, and traversed by the *Old Bridge* of 7 arches. Close to it are the *Dee Mills*, where once upon a time all the corn in Chester was brought to be ground, a monopoly from which the noble owners derived vast wealth.

Near to the *Wishing Steps* and Bridgegate is a *Suspension Bridge*, leading over to Queen's Park; and a little further on, after passing rt., St. John's Ch., the circuit is completed at Eastgate.

History.

When the Roman Legions withdrew from Britain, Chester soon suffered from the inroads of the Saxons and Northmen; and in 607 Ethelfrid, King of Northumbria, devastated the town, slew the king of Powys and his hastily collected force, and, at the same time, destroyed the Christian monastery of Bangor Iscoed (Rte. 1). Devastated by the Danes in 894, it

was rebuilt by Ethelred, Earl of Mercia, subsequently to which it is said that King Edgar made a triumphal visit, his boat being manned by 6 subject kings, "whom he (thus toucht with imperious affection of glory), sitting at the sterne, compelled to row him over Dee to St. John's." William the Conqueror granted Cheshire as a County Palatine to Hugh Lupus, with as much land to be added to his Palatinate as he could win from the Welsh, and cognizance of all offences against the sword of Chester, like to that of offences against the crown at Westminster, with a distinct and separate parliament. A large portion, if not all, of the present county of Flint, was thus included in it, and is the only part of Wales surveyed in Domesday Book. Eight barons were created by the Earl Palatine, who held sway until 1237, when Henry III. united the earldom to the crown. His son Edward I. bestowed it on his son Edward of Carnarvon, since which time successive Princes of Wales have been created by patent Earl of Chester. In the reign of Charles I. the loyal city was besieged and forced to surrender after a determined resistance by the inhabitants, who held out for the king until famine drove them to terms. The first charter was granted to Chester in 1128 by Ranulph, the 3rd earl.

Chester, or West Chester, as it was called, was long a seaport among those of chief importance in the kingdom.

Excursions.

§ a. 3½ m. from Chester is **Eaton Hall**, the magnificent seat of the Duke of Westminster. Admission to the park and gardens on stated days, and to the house during the absence of the family, by tickets, to be obtained in Chester.

A broad road from Grosvenor

Bridge leads up to the main entrance to the Park, a *Gothic Gateway*, copied from that of St. Augustine's, Canterbury. It is about 3 m. thence, through the level but well-wooded park of 800 acres, to the Hall, a stately building of Gothic design (Waterhouse, Arch.) being the fourth which has stood on this site, where, it is stated, between 3 and 4 millions sterling have been expended at various times. It was built between 1876 and 1881, and consists of an E. wing or dwelling-house for the family, connected by a corridor with a mansion of state for entertainment and guests. This is entered by a Gothic porch projecting from the body of the building, leading into a grand Hall rising through 2 stories, with lateral extension. This is paved with Alexandrine mosaic, its walls resplendent with porphyry, serpentine, and alabaster, the fireplaces marble, richly carved; one of them surmounted by a sculptured relief of the Trial of Scrope and Grosvenor, for the right to quarter arms, "argent, a bend or." On the S. side are the Library, 90 ft. long, with a memorial of Caxton in relief over the door, and the drawing-rooms, decorated with panels of birds, painted by Marks; the roof of fan tracery (of basket-work, stuccoed), has been retained from the former mansion. The dining-room, lined with walnut-wood, contains family portraits by Gainsborough, Millais, &c.

The Duke's far-famed collection of paintings, the Grosvenor Gallery, is in London. Eaton contains a few works of art—*Benj. West's* Battles of the Boyne and of La Hogue; various family portraits by Lely and others; also some modern sculpture by Gibson, Westmacott.

On approaching the hall a tall square *Campanile* attracts the eye; this is attached to the very elegant modern *Gothic chapel*, which

deserves great praise: as does also the Stable Court adjoining, a quadrangle of red brick and timber-gabled roofs. The stable fittings are very perfect. In the middle of the court is an equestrian group by Boehm.

The view from the Terrace Garden in front of the house commanding the Welsh hills, is very pleasing. The pleasure grounds and *Pinetum* include many choice trees and a very pretty dairy. In the grounds is a Roman altar, found at Chester, inscribed, "Nymphis et Fontibus," and a Greek altar, brought from Delphi. The *Conservatories*, approached by a lofty arched glass corridor, are extensive and well kept.

The Racing stables and Stud-paddocks are on the confines of the Park near Eccleston.

§ b. *Excursion to Beeston Castle* (9 m. from Chester by Crewe rly.), a ruined castle on the summit of a lofty rock of new red sandstone, commanding view over Dee and Mersey Estuaries. It is $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from Beeston Stat. (small Inn); 1 m. distant is the modern *Peckforton Castle*, seat of Lord Tollemache (see *Handbook for Cheshire*).

Chester to Bangor.

In the first 2 m. the rly. is carried past the city walls, the Roodee, and about 1 m. after crossing the Dee enters Wales, whence it keeps a direct N.W. course through a flat alluvial country.

1. the Railway to Mold and Denbigh (Rte. 10) diverges.

7 m. *Queensferry* Stat. (Inn: Harwarden Arms.) The rly. runs parallel with the Dee, which, by an Act obtained in 1732, was embanked, and by this means 50,000 acres were reclaimed for agricultural purposes. A portion of it is still called *Sealand*. Traffic is maintained across the ferry.

Upon the ridge on the l., $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., the first rising ground above the Dee

Valley, stand the ruined castle of *Hawarden* (Harden), and the modern Gothic residence of the Rt. Hon. Wm. E. Gladstone. It is 7 m. from Chester and 2½ m. from the Broughton Stat., of the Chester and Mold Rly. (see Rte. 10, where it is described more fully).

[2 m. from Hawarden on the Flint road are the ruins of *Ewloe* Castle, at the head of two lovely dingles. They are difficult to find, and, when found, to approach, from the dense thicket of underwood with which they are surrounded. One semi-round, one square tower, and some thick walls of the 13th cent., are all that is now left. In the adjoining wood of *Coed Ewloe* a great defeat was experienced in 1156 by a detachment of Henry II.'s English army, while on its way to surprise Owain Gwynedd's camp at Basingwerk. It was attacked by Cynan and Dafydd, the sons of Owain, while in the recesses of the dingle, and routed with great slaughter.]

Connah's Quay Stat., a staith from which coal from Buckley is shipped. It will become a much more important stat. when the projected Junction is made with the *Wirral Rly.*, which will cross the Dee near this, and open a direct communication from Hawarden and N. Wales to Birkenhead and Liverpool, through the Mersey Tunnel. Thus, by turning the estuary of the Dee, the detour by Chester is avoided. The Rly. runs parallel with the wide estuary of the Dee. Here is the place where Milton's "Lycidas" (Mr. King) was shipwrecked and drowned; and here, at low water, divided by an uncertain and dangerous channel, stretch far out the sands known by the beautiful song in the novel of *Alton Locke*:—

"O Mary, go and call the cattle home,
Across the sands of Dee."

Seen when the tide is in, the Dee appears a magnificent river.

12½ m. *Flint Stat.* (*Inns*: Royal Oak; Cross Foxes), Pop. 5321, a rather dilapidated assemblage of black houses and tall chimneys which form its lonely street. The population is employed in the various adjacent works and *Coal Mines*. A group of tall chimneys proclaims the presence of *Chemical works*; the manufacture of alkali is carried on here. Hither the Romans brought their ores from Halkin to be smelted, the slag and dross of their hearths being still visible a little way out of the town. King Edward I. built the present *Castle*, the bill and accounts of which are extant in the Record Office. Flintshire was one of the Welsh counties created by him in the Royal edict commonly called the Statute of Rhuddlan.

The *Castle*, an unattractive ruin on the shore, while partaking of the general aspect of decay, betokens its early importance. It is an example of the castles of the time of Edward I. The design consists of a square court abutting on the sea, with towers at the angles, while the keep, a detached massive round tower, called the Double Tower, was connected by a drawbridge. The destructive action of the sea has caused some of the towers and a portion of wall to give way.

Flint Castle has been immortalised by Shakespeare as the scene of the meeting of the unfortunate Richard II. with Bolingbroke, A.D. 1399:

"Go to the rude ribs of that ancient castle;
Through brazen trumpet send the breath
of parle
Into his ruin'd ears, and thus deliver:
Henry of Bolingbroke upon his knees
Doth kiss king Richard's hand."

The Earl of Northumberland, assuming the character of a mediator, had persuaded the king to meet him near Conway, declaring that the sole

wish of the Duke of Lancaster was to hold a free parliament and have his estates restored to him. During the ride, however, the king found himself surrounded by an unexpected body of men, under whose guard he was hurriedly conveyed to Flint, where, though at first received with pretended courtesy and loyalty, his deposition was soon effected. Bolingbroke, entering the castle fully armed, his bascinet excepted, bent his knee for the last time before the king, who, uncovering himself, addressed him—"Fair cousin of Lancaster, you are welcome." "My Lord," answered Henry, "I am come before my time; but your people complain that they have been governed too rigorously for 20 years. If it please God, I will help you to govern them better." "Fair cousin," replied Richard, "since it pleaseth you, it pleaseth me;" and he was conveyed next day to Chester on "two little nagges not worth 40 frankes." Here, too, according to Froissart, the king's greyhound Mathe changed masters, and took sides with Bolingbroke. The castle was held for Charles I. by Sir Roger Mostyn during the Civil War. He was compelled to yield in 1643 to Sir W. Brereton after a long siege, and the castle was dismantled in 1647 by order of the Parliament.

Flint, with the towns of Mold, Holywell, Rhuddlan, Caerwys, St. Asaph, Caergwrle, and Overton, as its contributory boroughs, spread over a wide district of country, returned one M.P. by the Reform Act. There are here some excellent parochial schools.

The *Church*, which is modern, contains a monument executed at Rome to the memory of Mrs. Muspratt, but nothing else there is remarkable.

[3 m. from Flint and Mold Stat. is *Northop*, h. e., a pretty village with one of the finest Perp. *Churches* in N. Wales, next to Wrexham. The tower, 98 ft. high, is of 5 stages. In

the interior (restd.) there is excellent stained glass, some carving of the 17th cent. under the pulpit, and 4 stone monumental effigies in niches in the N. wall of Edwyn ap Gronow, a chieftain of Tegengl, a Welsh prince, 1073; Ithel Vychan ap Bledd-Vach, a knight probably of Malta, in plate armour, 14th cent.; and a canopied figure of a female supposed to be Leuci Llwyd, 1482.

To the N.W. is *Moel-y-gaer*, a very perfect fortified British post. It occupies the S. extremity of the *Halkin Mount*, the most important of the chain of hills which run N. and S. on l. of the rly. A large number of *silver and lead Mines* have rendered this district very valuable to the owners, particularly to the Grosvenor family. *Halkin Castle* is a seat of the Duke of Westminster. The scenery on the road from Halkin or Northop to Flint (3 m.), embraces the expanse of the Dee estuary and the opposite Cheshire coast, dotted with villages and seats. The largest of the villages is the dreary watering-place of Parkgate on the opposite sandy shore.]

10 m. *Bagillt Stat.*, surrounded by numerous *Lead-smelting*, and desilverising works, for many years carried on by the firm of Walker, and valued at £90,000. The line runs so close to the water's edge that the traveller gains a good view of the gradually widening estuary and the Cheshire coast, while on the l. the sight of green hills somewhat relieves even the smoke of collieries and manufactories.

17 m. *Holywell Stat.*, from which the town is distant nearly 2 m.

On the brow of the hill, only a few hundred yards from the stat., are the neglected though still beautiful ruins of *Basingwerk Abbey*, looking sadly out of place amidst the intrusion of chimneys, tramroads, and

inclined planes, which dispute possession of the ground with it, causing every visitor to regret that what is left of these venerable buildings is not fenced off and kept in some decent order. The original founder of the abbey, which was called by the Welsh Maes Glas, or the cloister-field, is not known. A society of monks existed here previous to the year 1119, and the Cistercian rule was introduced by Ranulph, 2nd Earl of Chester, in 1131. The present ruins are reduced to the S. transept, and part of the S. aisle of a cross church in E. Eng. Gothic. One pier and half an arch of the nave only remain. Above the refectory was the dormitory, in the S. portion of which 3 broad-splayed lancet windows still remain. W. of the refectory is an E. E. building with 7 lancet windows, probably part of a guesten-hall. Portions of the abbot's lodging, barns, and a grange remain. Basingwerk Abbey was dissolved in 1535, when the revenues amounted to 150*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, but it was temporarily revived in the reign of Mary; and even as late as 1647 was used by the Roman Catholics as a place of interment. Along the E. side of the ravine, down which the brook rushes, may be occasionally traced *Watt's Dyke*, which had its N. termination at the sea-coast in this neighbourhood. From hence it ran southward through Northop, Mold, &c., to Wynnstay and the neighbourhood of Oswestry (Rte. 1).

Holywell town is reached from the Stat. by a steep road, passing many factories and tall chimneys. A footpath, passing near Basingwerk Abbey, and ascending the ravine, down which flows a copious stream derived from St. Winifred's Well, but now turned to the base use of moving the wheels of copper and paper mills and other works, leads to the upper end of Holywell. It is called the Strand Walk.

Holywell (in Welsh, Trefnnon) (*Inn*: King's Head, comfortable), a straggling though rather well-built town, and the most important in Flintshire, 7862 Inhab. From its being the centre of an immensely valuable mineral district, large numbers of manufacturing establishments have been set up for smelting lead and copper, making shot, &c., though the trade of the town does not appear to be in as prosperous a condition as it probably was at the time of their erection.

The only thing of interest in the town is the celebrated *Well* of *St. Winifred*, situated immediately below the ch., which, apart from the legendary and superstitious lore attached to it, is a really singular phenomenon on account of the enormous quantity of water supplied by it. Its peculiarities are that it never freezes, although intensely cold, and scarcely ever varies in the supply of water, the only difference after wet weather being a considerable discoloration of a wheyey tinge. It rushed out of the rock with such rapidity, that the basin, which would contain 200 tuns of water, was, when emptied, refilled in 2 minutes, proving that there was a continual supply at the rate of 100 tuns a minute. The supply is now reduced to about 21 tuns a minute. The sweet-scented moss, or *Jungermannia asplenioides*, grows on the sides of the well, and the stones are coated with a vegetable production called by Linnaeus *Byssus Jolithus*, which passes with the credulous for the stains of St. Winifred's blood.

The *Chapel* over the well is an exquisite specimen of late Perp. work, and was erected by Margaret, Countess of Richmond and mother of Henry VII. The groined arches which rise from the polygonal sides of the well are particularly rich and graceful, and are adorned with figures and escutcheons of the Stanley family,

Catherine of Aragon, and others. The five angular recesses are, no doubt, intended to represent the five porches of the pool of Bethesda. 3000*l.* have been expended in the erection of *Public Baths* and improving the old building. The Baths now consist of the octagon well or basin; invalids' cold bath; 2 plunge-baths, one of them 60 ft. in length; and 4 hot, cold, and shower baths; also a douche-bath. In June 1870, a *Hospice* was opened for the reception of the poor and afflicted who visit the well. The "Feast of St. Winifred" is celebrated in Holywell Rom. Cath. Chapel in June and November of each year, on which occasions some of the bones of St. Winifred, enclosed in a small box with glass top, are produced and kissed by worshippers. The following is the legend of the Holy well. A beautiful virgin lived in the 7th cent., by name Winifred, the daughter of Thewith, a nobleman, and niece to St. Beuno, the same saint who founded the ch. of Clynnog in Caernarvonshire (Rte. 15), and who obtained leave to found a ch. on the estate of Thewith. Now Winifred entered the service of this ch. under the special protection of her saintly uncle, and while proceeding one morning to fulfil her duties she attracted the attention of Caradoc, the son of King Alen, who endeavoured, but unsuccessfully, to obtain her consent to his suit. Enraged at his failure, the ungallant prince raised his axe and decapitated Winifred, whose head, rolling down the hill, stopped at the altar where the congregation were kneeling. Immediately a copious fountain gushed up: and the saint, snatching up her head, at once united it to the body, the place of separation being merely marked by a white circle round the neck. As for Caradoc, he was stricken with death on the spot. It is added in Ralph Higden's '*Polychronicon*' that Cara-

doc's sons and descendants were condemned to bark like dogs, until such time as they should win the saint's pardon.

Winifred survived for more than 15 years, and, having received the veil from St. Elerius, became abbess of the monastery of Gwytherin, where she died in the odour of sanctity. Her bones were afterwards translated in the reign of Stephen to the abbey-ch. of Shrewsbury. The colouring matter on the stones was attributed to the stains of her blood, which gave to the well several other miraculous properties. One of them, as Drayton informs us in his '*Polyolbion*,' was, that an animal when thrown in was safe from being drowned—

"And of her holy life the innocence to shewe,
Whatever living thing into this well you
throwe,
She strongly beares it up, not suffering it
to sinke."

The well belonged to the crown, being expressly excepted by name out of a grant of certain crown property, temp. James I. It is now the property of the Duke of Westminster, who leases it to the Corporation at a nominal rent.

Large numbers of pilgrims have from early times flocked to this holy well: amongst them are many of royal blood, as William the Conqueror, Henry II., Edward I., James II. (in hopes of obtaining the son who was soon afterwards born), and in more modern days the King of the Belgians and Cardinal Wiseman. Numberless *Ex-voto* offerings—the crutch that bore the tottering patient to the healing water, or the barrow on which he was wheeled—may be seen suspended on the wall, as is not unfrequently seen on the Continent.

The modern *Church* does not contain much of interest, save a headless effigy of an ecclesiastic holding a chalice. There are also a number of brasses with heraldic bearings and

inscriptions to members of the Mostyn, Pennant, Edwards, and Panton families. It is situated so low, as regards the rest of the town, that the bell could not well be heard; to remedy which defect, a man, called the "walking belfry," was sent round the town, at the time of service, wearing a leathern strap, at the end of which dangled a big bell: which as he walked struck against his knee, cushioned for the purpose. This singular practice is now done away with, as the bell of the cemetery at the S.E. of the town now gives notice to the townsmen. The apparatus is, however, preserved in the ch.

Distances.—Flint, 4 m.; Northop, 6½; Caerwys, 5; St. Asaph, 10; Downing, 3½; Mold, 10.

A very large *Wheel*, which may be observed by the railway side between Holywell and Mostyn, belongs to the smelting works of Messrs. Eyton, where large quantities of silver are annually separated from lead-ores.

20 m. *Mostyn Stat.* (*Inn*: Mostyn Hotel). Here is a *Quay*, from which vessels ply with coals from neighbouring collieries. Near it is *Mostyn Hall*, the residence of Lord Mostyn. This Elizabethan mansion, backed by fine woods, partly dating from the time of Henry VI., is approached by a fine old gateway and avenue of trees. The interior has been carefully restored, and the Hall rebuilt on the lines of the old one; it is hung with tapestry. There are some family portraits of the Mostyns: a Charles I. by *Vandyck* (?), and Sir Roger Mostyn and his lady by *Mytens*. The *Library* contains a remarkable collection of MSS. and rare books. While Henry of Richmond was lurking from place to place through the Principality, rousing the Welsh to take up arms in his favour, as grandson of their countryman Owen Tudor, he was nearly

surprised at Mostyn Hall by a party of soldiers of Richard III. The room out of which he escaped by leaping from the back window, and the place of the hole through which he passed, are still pointed out; but new masonry supersedes the old. Here is preserved a curious pedigree-roll of the family, and a remarkable golden *torque*, known as the Harlech torque; also the silver harp of the Caerwys Eisteddfod (1568), and many bronze and old stone implements dug up in Wales.

[1 m. S. of Mostyn Stat. is *Downing*, the seat of the Earl of Denbigh, but better known as the birthplace and residence of Pennant the antiquary and traveller, whose granddaughter married a Fielding. As the author of the 'Tours in Wales,' his name should be held in reverence by every tourist. The house was built in 1627, and bears on the front a Welsh inscription, signifying "Without God there is nothing, with God enough." Here is the fine Pennant collection of manuscripts, books, and paintings, besides bronzes, celts, &c., and within the grounds is a stone inscribed as follows:—HIC IACIT MVLER BONA NOBILI.

From hence the tourist may reach Holywell, 3 m.—a delightful walk—passing *Pant Asa*, where a large Capuchin monastery, with school and orphanage, have been founded by Lord Denbigh; also a beautiful Roman Catholic Church (*St. David's*), built at the expense of Viscountess Fielding, who designed it for the use of the Church of England.

The tourist may ascend by *Whitford* the *Garreg Mountain* (3 m. from Mostyn), from the summit of which may be seen Snowdon, and Moel Siabod, the Great Orme's Head; and north, the Isle of Man, and the Cumberland Hills.

In a field on the N.W. side of this eminence is the *Maen Achwynfan*, or

Stone of Lamentation, a cross covered with the ornamentation usual from the 9th to the 12th cent. Its height is 12 ft., the head being circular, and the width at base 27 inches. The E. and W. sides of the cross are divided into 3 sculptured compartments. From hence a British (?) roadway, called the Sarn Hwlein, runs due W. for about a mile, until it intersects Offa's Dyke.]

A considerable amount of coasting trade is carried on at *Mostyn Quay*, there being several collieries in the vicinity—among them *Mostyn Colliery*. A coal shaft has been sunk in the quicksand of the Dee by Mr. Eyton, M.P. A steamer plies to Liverpool.

As the rly. trends round to the N.W. the tourist gains views on the rt. across the estuary of *Hillbre Island*, on which there is a telegraph stat. The *Point of Air* lighthouse is an iron building standing on 9 pillars, showing at night a white light.

24 m. l. *Talacre*, the modern seat of Sir Piers Mostyn, Bart., close to which are the valuable freestone quarries of *Gwespyr*, which supplied the stone for the Liverpool Custom-house. The famous *Talacre Lead* and *Silver Mine* has been worked for 800 years.

[About 1½ N.W. is the ch. of *Llanasa*, the painted windows of which are said to have formerly belonged to the Abbey of Basingwerk.]

26 m. *Prestatyn* Stat., from which place the tourist can, if more convenient, visit Garreg Mount and Downing, rejoining the rly. at Holywell. Here the range of Clwydian Hills, 20 m. long, take their start, running S. as far as Llandegla.

[3 m. l. in the ch.-yard of *Newmarket* is a richly ornamented cross of the 14th cent. There is also, about ¼ of a mile above the village, the remarkable tumulus of *Copp 'ar 'leni*, which has the reputation of being the largest but one in Great

Britain, covering more than an acre of ground. It is said to have been raised by the conquerors of the Ordovices, and to have served as a mausoleum for Queen Boadicea. A local tradition states that it was made for the purpose of covering the ashes of those who fell in the engagement between her and Suetonius Paulinus.

2½ m. from *Prestatyn* (and equidistant from *Newmarket* and *Rhuddlan*, Rte. 11) are a few patches of wall, the scanty remains of the early Norm. Castle of *Diserth*, magnificently situated on a lofty scarp'd rock, but too much decayed to show what were the arrangements of the fortress. The defences on the E. side are the strongest, from there having been a deep fosse cut in the solid rock. It was fortified by Henry III. in 1241, and destroyed soon afterwards by the Welsh under Llewelyn. The view from it is superb.

Diserth Church, a burial-place of the Conways in the 17th cent., contains part of a Jesse window at the E. end, said, as usual, to have been removed from Basingwerk Abbey, and also a mutilated cross, said to have been erected in memory of Einion, son of Ririd Vlaidd, shot by an arrow at the time of the destruction of the castle. The ch.-yd. is memorable for some fine old yew trees. Just below the castle rock is an ivy-covered oblong building, with 2 arms or transepts, called by the not uncommon name of *Siamber Wen*, or the White Chamber, the original use of which is obscure, though it was probably a chapel built over a holy well. The counties of Flint and Denbigh are celebrated for the number and efficacy of their sainted wells. *Ffynnon Asaph*, or the well of St. Asa, is 2 m. distant, in the parish of Cwm, and supplies a brook on which there is an extremely pretty cascade, with which, however, the diversion of the stream to the

mine threatens to interfere, falling through a cylindrical hollow in the rocks overgrown with moss and ivy. Dr. Johnson, in the diary of his Welsh Tour, 1774, says, "We went to see a cascade. I trudged unwillingly, and was not sorry to find it dry. The water was, however, turned on," and produced a very striking cascade. They are paid 100*l.* a year for permission to divert the stream into the mines. The river, for such it may be termed, rises from a single spring.

The visitor will find it convenient for him to make his way from Diserth to Rhyl, passing 3½ m. *Talar Goch*, a noted mine, which has yielded more ore than any other in Flintshire. Its annual produce was 2700 tons of zinc ore (value 12,000*l.*) and 900 tons of lead, yielding silver to the extent of 9200*l.* It is situated in the mountain limestone.]

30 m. *Rhyl Junction Stat.* (*Inns*: Westminster H.,—Belvoir;—Queen's, all facing the sea; on East Parade, and opp. Pier;—Royal,—Mostyn). Rhyl, in 1830 a fishing village, deriving its name *Yr hêl*, from its collection of sand banks raised slightly above the often flooded low level ground, has risen to the rank of a watering-place (Pop. 6034), whither large numbers of visitors, principally from the Midlands, annually resort, together with crowds of excursionists panting for a breath of sea-air. The iron promenade *Pier*, near which baths, &c., have been erected, is 700 yds. long. Considering the barren and unattractive situation, the builders of Rhyl have done wonders, though nothing can compensate for the flat and monotonous marsh-land in its immediate neighbourhood. Rhyl, however, has its advantages in its pure air and firm sands, and last, but not least, the moderate charges of its lodgings when compared with those of its neighbours. A group of 12 or 15

hotels between the Stat. and the pier forms the centre of the town. Good lodging-houses on E. and W. Parades. In clear weather the views from the beach embrace the Great and Little Orme's Head, Penmaenmawr, and Snowdon range in the far distance.

The town stands 1 m. from the mouth of the Clwyd, which, after running for a few miles through an alluvial district, expands into a small estuary, crossed by Voryd Bridge. A large tract of ground between it and the sea, originally a marsh, is protected from the tides by an embankment nearly 8 m. long, and 80 ft. wide at the base. The land is now very valuable. The Vale of Clwyd Rly, from Denbigh runs in here (Rte. 11).

Ty-ny-Rhyl, a mansion of the 16th cent., was for long the only house in the place. There is some carved woodwork in the hall made out of the bedstead of Griffith Lloyd, gentleman usher to Catherine of Aragon.

Rhyl was, until 1844, a township of the parish of Rhuddlan, but was then constituted a separate district, for which two churches have been provided, Trinity Ch. built in 1835, and St. Thomas's, by Sir G. G. Scott, in 1862, which contains a beautiful alabaster pulpit, on a base of Caen stone, an E. window in honour of Bp. Vowler Short, and other painted glass.

At W. end of the Parade are the *Winter Gardens* (admission 6*d.*). There is a large Hydropathic establishment and boarding-house. There are *Convalescent Hospitals* for men, women, and children, which are well managed.

Excursions.—Rhyl is pleasantly situated at the mouth of the *Vale of Clwyd*, much praised for its mild beauty, here presenting only a flat plain. Within it lie Rhuddlan Castle, 3 m. (Rte. 11); Diserth Castle, 3½ m. by road over Gladstone

Bridge; St. Asaph Cathedral, 6 m.; Denbigh Castle (see Rte. 11), 15 m.

Steamers to Liverpool, 42 m., in 2 to 3 hours.

Railway to Rhuddlan Castle, 3 m.; Denbigh, Ruthin, and St. Asaph, 6; Conway, 15; Chester, 30; Abergele, 4½; Bangor, 30 m.

Crossing the estuary of the Voryd by a swing-bridge, and leaving l. the line to Rhuddlan, St. Asaph, and Denbigh (Rte. 11), which runs up the Vale of Clwyd, our rly. still hugs the coast, which is gradually approached by a fresh chain of hills, the outliers of the range of mountains lying between the Clwyd, Conway, and the upper basin of the Dee, and intersected by the Elwy, Alwen, and Aled rivers. 3 m. l. are *Kinnel Park* (H. R. Hughes, Esq.), and the beautiful spire of the modern ch. at Bodelwyddan (Rte. 11).

32½ m. Towyn Stat., near the fine modern *Church* and schools built by Mr. and Mrs. Hesketh, of Gwrych Castle.

34¼ m. *Abergele* Stat., at Pensarn, nearly 1 m. distant from the village. (*Inns*: Bee, good; Hesketh Arms.) As a watering-place some persons prefer it to Rhyl, from its greater seclusion, smooth sands, and the beautiful scenery in the grounds of Gwrych Castle, ½ m. W., to which strangers are admitted; here the cliffs of the carboniferous limestone are finely developed. *Abergele Church* (restd.), like many in the Vale of Clwyd, consists of two equal aisles; has a square tower. In the ch.-yd. are 2 melancholy memorials; one of granite marks the grave of 33 persons burned in the Irish Mail Train, 1868, and near it the grave of seven burned in the *Ocean Monarch* off this coast 1848. An inscription on a tombstone, to the effect that "that there lay the body of one whose dwelling had been three miles to the north," points to a tradition that the mainland once extended much fur-

ther N. than it does now, and is borne out by the traces of a submerged forest visible at low water, parts of the sea line.

Abergele is now somewhat eclipsed as a watering-place by **Pensarn**. (*Inns*: Cambrian H., Railway H.), a modern rival, near the stat., which extends its terrace and villas, many of them lodging-houses, along the sea, and close to the smooth sands.

In the cliff above Gwrych Castle, 2 m. W., is *Cefn Ogof*, a large but shallow cavern, divided in twain by a tall columnar rock, the recess to the left soon terminating, while that to the right rises to a height of 30 feet. It is worth visiting, chiefly on account of the view from it.

On quitting Pensarn Stat. see, l. of the rly. *Gwrych Castle*, the imposing castellated mansion of R. Bamford Hesketh, Esq. It has an extensive front, surmounted by a tall tower and many turrets, and although ingeniously calculated to deceive the spectator as to its size and capabilities, harmonises well with the rocky scenery around. The beautiful grounds which surround the house abound with pines and cypresses. A path leads thence to *Cefn Ogof*.

About 1 m. N. of Abergele is the large and perfect camp of *Castell Mawr*, near to which at *Coppa-rywylfa* (the mount of the watch-tower) are remains of a very strong British fortress.

36½ m. *Llanddulas* Stat. The pretty village of *Llanddulas* (so called from the dark grey colour of the local limestone) has large limekilns. This is the spot where Richard II., riding beside the wily Northumberland, was startled by the sight of armed horsemen among the trees, and first learned that his treacherous companion had lured him from Conway to deliver him to Bolingbroke. The king spurred his horse to escape, but Percy, assuming the gaoler, seized the bridle, telling

him it was only a guard of honour. Llanddulas has a beautiful *Church*, built from the plans of Mr. G. E. Street, at the cost of Mr. Bamford Hesketh, of Gwrych Castle. Near to Llanddulas Stat. occurred in 1868, the terrible collision of the Irish mail train on its way to Holyhead with some trucks laden with petroleum, which led to its instant conflagration and the loss of 33 lives, including Lord and Lady Farnham, Judge Berwick, Sir R. Chinnery and Lady. Their remains are interred in one grave in the ch.-yd. of Abergele.

Bryn Dulas is the residence of J. B. Hesketh, Esq. From *Llysfaen Hill* there is a magnificent view of the mountains in the neighbourhood of Conway. The promontory of Penmaen Rhos, crossed by the old high-road, was considered a more difficult ascent and a more perilous passage than Penmaen Mawr. Dr. Johnson wrote of it: "The path is so narrow and unprotected that few persons dare trust themselves upon their horses on it."

This once formidable obstacle to travelling is now pierced by a *Tunnel*, 1630 ft. long, from which the train emerges on

38½ m. Colwyn Stat., near the village of Colwyn.

40½ m. *Colwyn Bay Stat.*, on the shore of a beautiful bay. (*Inns*: Colwyn Bay Hotel, Imperial H., Railway H., all close to sea and rly. stat.) The pretty village of Colwyn is 1½ m. distant from the stat. Between it and the sea, but partly shut out from it by the Railway and embankment, is the large and rising watering-place, called *Colwyn Bay*, whose terraces and lodging-houses are spreading round the bay.

1½ m. further N., also on the Bay, *Llandrillo*, described under Llandudno, is building Lodgings and Hotels (Rhos Abbey, Blue Bells), with the design of attracting summer visitors.

[2 m. l., higher up on the hills, in the parish of *Llaneilian*, is the once famous *Ffynnon*, or *Cursingwell*, of Eilian. "Persons who have any great malice against others, and wish to injure them, frequently resort to the minister of the well, who, for a sum of money, undertakes to offer them in it. Various ceremonies are gone through on the occasion; amongst others, the name of the devoted is registered in a book, and then a pin in his name, and a pebble with his initials inscribed thereon, are thrown into the well."—*Arch. Camb.*

41 m.l. at *Pwll-y-Crochan*, 10 mins. walk from Colwyn Bay Stat. is a fine and capacious *Hotel*, delightfully situated in pleasure grounds: once the residence of the Dowager Lady Erskine, around which a town is springing up.

On leaving Colwyn the rly. also quits the shore, and penetrates in a tunnel, the limestone ridge, terminating in the promontory of Little Orme's Head, and through a cutting emerges upon the broad estuary of the Conway river, in sight of the romantic castle. The river, which at high tide is more than ½ a mile in breadth, is crossed by two bridges, both in their different ways fine works of Science, and a striking improvement on the former state of things, when the only communication on this Irish highway was by means of a ferry-boat. Frequent accidents happened here, and on Christmas Day, 1806, the boat upset with the mail on board, when all the passengers but 2 were drowned.

Llandudno and *Llanrwst Junct. Stat.*, is placed at the extremity of the embankment thrown across the Conway estuary leading to the 2 bridges. (For Llandudno, see Rte. 6; for Llanrwst and Bettws, Rte. 12.)

The *Suspension Bridge*, which is 32 ft. wide, and 18 ft. above high-water mark, was erected by Telford, in 1822—1826, to complete the

Holyhead road, a truly national work, which even the rly. will never entirely throw into the shade. The entrances on either side are between 2 towers, intended to harmonise with the general style of the castle, the length of the roadway being 327 ft. The suspending chains are secured at each end respectively into the cliff below the castle, and into a rock formerly insulated, but now connected with the mainland by the railway embankment 2000 ft. long.

The graceful appearance of this bridge is greatly marred by the close proximity of the *Tubular Railway Bridge*, which, however interesting as a work of science, is nevertheless an intrusion into the scene. It is a rectangular tube, "in the construction of which Stephenson's scientific knowledge is specially displayed; the iron-work above the tube consists of 8 square cells, and has to resist compression; that below the tube consists of 6 cells, and has to resist tension; and that at the sides has to secure the combined action of the top and bottom. The Conway end of the tube is immovable, but the Chester end is free, so that it may expand by heat and contract by cold, as the tube rests on cast-iron rollers, which give play so as to allow 12 in. of motion. The whole mass weighs 1140 tons." The length of the tube is 400 ft. The rly. emerges from the tubular bridge, and passes close under the towers of the castle, one of which, breached by cannon or by time, and broken open below, seemed to hang over the train, but has been propped up with a huge buttress by the rly. company.

Next by a passage broken through the town walls the train enters

45 m. **Conway Stat.** The Castle Gate is reached from this by ascending Rose Hill Street, turning rt. at the Town Hall (admission 3d.).

Conway (*Inns*: Castle, fair;

Erskine Arms), a very picturesque old town, is charmingly situated on the tidal estuary of the Conwy, which at high water has the appearance of a broad lake. The town (Pop. 3254) is singular in having retained in a perfect state its circuit of Mediæval walls and circular towers, which are joined at the end to the even more picturesque feudal castle. The *Walls*, which are contemporaneous with the castle, are of great thickness, embattled, strengthened at intervals by 21 *Towers*, and entered by 3 principal gateways with 2 flanking towers. The general plan is a triangle, the base line being occupied by

The **Castle**, the most elegant of all the Welsh fortresses, though less grand than Caernarvon. For admission (charge 3d.) apply to the warder, whose residence is immediately opposite the entrance. It was erected by Edward I. in 1284, nearly about the same time and for the same purposes as he built Caernarvon and Beaumaris, viz., for securing his newly-obtained possession of Wales. While Conway served as a place of defence, it also had the somewhat perilous honour of being the royal residence, as on one occasion, while the king was holding his festivities, the Welsh descended from the hills in great numbers, and so hard pressed the garrison that famine had almost caused them to surrender.

It was from Conway that Richard II. commenced his fatal journey to meet Bolingbroke, which ended in his imprisonment within the walls of Flint. A letter of the reign of James I. speaks of "the King's Castle of Conway" as "in great ruin and decay," but we next hear of the castle being garrisoned for the king during the Civil Wars by the warlike Archbishop Williams, who, however, on being superseded by Prince Rupert, went over to the enemy, and assisted

General Mytton in his attack on the town in 1646. Finally, it came to an ignominious destruction by Charles II. making a grant to the Earl of Conway, who, in 1665, stripped the building of all the timber and lead, to convert them to his own use.

No painter could desire a more picturesque object of its class than **Conway Castle**. The graceful forms of its towers and turrets, their varied groupings as seen from different points, the softening progress of decay, the draping ivy filling up the breaches in the walls, and the noble situation, render Conway equal to any castle on the Rhine, Moselle, or Danube. In plan it is nearly a parallelogram, with 8 drum towers 40 ft. in diameter, rising from the edge of the precipitous rock on which it stands, and connected by lofty curtains.

On the N. side is a sallyport, to which access was gained by means of a river-path winding up the rock; while in the same position on the W. is the main gate, approached over a steep drawbridge, and through a covered entrance with flanking turrets. The interior is unequally divided by a cross wall into a sort of inner court marked by 4 of the round towers, each of which has a lofty stair turret. The principal feature in the interior is the *Hall* of Llewelyn on the S. side, 130 ft. long. It is now roofless, but was once ribbed with 8 stone arches, of which 2 remain, and furnished with 3 fireplaces. It is lighted by 9 E. E. windows, externally, or on outer face, 'decorated.' The vaults underneath were magazines for stores. The 2 eastern towers are called the King's and Queen's; and in the latter, which is the most northerly, is a *Chapel*, or oratory, a beautiful little recess in the thickness of the wall, with a polygon E. end, 3 lancets, and a fine groined roof. It has seats

on each side for priests, and 2 squints, or loopholes, communicating from the outer chapel to the apse. Under the King's Tower is a vault, accessible only through a trapdoor in the floor above.

This castle was designed by Henry de Elreton, the architect of Caernarvon, and it is said that the workmen employed on the building were all sent from Rutlandshire, which from the excellence of its stone produced the best masons in England. The late Lady Erskine held it from the Crown at the rent of 6s. 8d., and a dish of fish to the Queen whenever she passed this way. The Mayor of Conway was made Constable in 1885, but has to pay a fee.

The hand of modern improvement has been at work in Conway town, and most of its old houses have been rebuilt. *Plas Mawr*, in High St., founded by Robert Wynne of Gwydir, temp. 1577, is a good example of a domestic building of the 16th cent. Two rooms are ornamented with panelling and coats of arms, in which the initials of Queen Elizabeth and the Earl of Leicester are visible.

The *College*, or *Stanley House*, in Castle-street, though rebuilt, retains a pretty oriel window and armorial bearings of the Stanley family.

The *Church*, which was preceded by a Cistercian Abbey, founded in 1185 by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, and long since destroyed, has a fine Dec. tower with Perp. additions, and a Dec. nave, with quatrefoil clerestory windows (modern) and transept, well restored. The chancel is E. Dec., with a Perp. E. window of modern stained glass. It contains an altar-tomb to Robert Wynne, 1664; a slab to John Brickdall, vicar in 1601, whose ancestor, Thomas Brickdall, was the first governor of the castle in 1292; a fine *Roodloft*, very perfect, and chancel stalls, with a good screen; some incised monumental

stones; and a slab in memory of Nicholas Hookes, the father of 27 children. His father was William Hookes, probably the same whom Archbishop Williams, his uncle, put in charge of Conway Castle, in 1603-4. There is an effigy of a female, said to be that of Archbishop Williams' mother. In the nave are two canopy tombs, and a bust by Theed of *John Gibson, R.A.*, the sculptor, a native of Conway, d. 1866, and a fine *Perp. font*.

The Conwy river was celebrated even in the Roman period for its pearls, which long proved a source of profit to those engaged in the fishery:

"Whose precious orient pearle, that breedeth
in the sande,
Above the other floods of Britain doth he
grace."—*Drayton's Polyolbion*.

Tacitus, speaking of Britain, says "Gignit et oceanus margarita sed suffusca et liventia;" still, he adds, that avarice never fails, "Ego facilius crediderim naturam Margaritis deesse quam nobis Avaritiam."—*Vit. Agric.*

Spenser also mentions the pearls:

"And Conway, which from out his stream
doth send
Plenty of pearles to deck his dames
withal."

Pearls, though now rare, are still found in the Conwy, and may be procured with some pains and patience. They, however, prove ill-coloured, and of small value. They are produced by two species of mussel, called *Mya margaritifera*, found in the upper waters of the river, and *Mytilus edulis*.

From the beauty of the scenery in the neighbourhood, and the many objects of interest, Conway and Llandudno are good head-quarters, from which the promontory of Creuddyn, the bluff precipices of Penmaenmawr, or the softer beauties of the vale of the Conwy may be explored at leisure.

Railways.—To Llandudno, 4 m.

[*N. Wales.*]

(see Rte. 6); Llanrwst, 12 m.; Betws-y-Coed, 16 (Rte. 12);—to Festiniog and Bala (Rte. 21); Chester, 45; Bangor, 15; Rhyl, 15; Aber, 9; Penmaenmawr, 4½.

Steamer to Trefriw (Rte. 12).

[Nearly 2 m. from Conway, on the summit of the Conway Mount, or *Town Hill*, an outspur of the huge limestone rock of Penmaen Bach, are traces of the fortified British town of *Castell caer Seion*, the citadel of which is defended by a wall of dry loose stones. Inside are some circular houses or *cyttiau*. As a military post no position could be better, as from its lofty situation it commands views of the other fortified posts in the country—as on *Penmaenmawr*, *Llandudno*, *Pen caer Helen* near Caerhun, *Bwrdd Arthur* near Beaumaris, and Holyhead.

The visitor may extend his walk to the outpost of Craig-y-Ddinas, an old entrenched position formed of dry stones, and then proceed to Conway down the lovely and romantic glen of Sychnant, "the Dry Hollow," in which there is a remarkable echo near the top, or else descend through the pass of Dwygyfylchi.]

Conway to Bangor by Penmaenmawr—Rail.

The rly. leaves Conway by a tunnel of 112 yards, under one of the towers of the town wall, emerging upon the marshy tidal estuary, covered for only a few hours by the sea, and passes thence through a 2nd tunnel of 630 yards, underneath the promontory of Penmaen Bach. On l. is *Pendyffryn* (Mrs. Darbishire), and the small ch. of *Dwygyfylchi*, a pleasant little village in a rich deep bottom, watered by the mountain streamlet Nant Daear Lwynog, which, if followed through a glen to the right, past a wood, leads to a pretty waterfall.

There is fair accommodation at Dwygyfylchi (*Inn*: Victoria) for seaside visitors who wish for quiet.

The massive mountain of **Penmaenmawr** stands boldly out into the sea, as though further progress were impossible. But the genius of Telford and Stephenson has succeeded in crossing the rugged heights by a turnpike and penetrating them by a rail road. A narrow zigzag path was the only course for the traveller until 1772, when an engineer named Sylvester first undertook to form a road which was subsequently reconstructed by Telford in 1827. The crossing of Penmaenmawr was an ugly bugbear in former journeyings between Chester and Ireland, and many accidents happened from the falling of masses of rock blocking up the road. Dr. Johnson, on his way to Bangor with the Thrales, flatly declares that they would have stopped at Conway, were it not the race-week, and the inns full, rather than cross after daylight. The rly. winds partly round the base of the mountain and partly through a tunnel, the remainder of its course being protected by an enormously strong sea-wall, which, however, in severe storms, has not always sufficed to preserve the line from inundation and damage.

Penmaenmawr may be considered as one of the outworks of the mountainous district of Snowdonia, an uninterrupted and very wild chain of hills extending from hence right across to Capel Curig.

Some have fixed on this spot as the scene of an encounter between Edward I. and the Welsh Bard of Grey: 'Ruin seize thee, ruthless king;'—but the whole story happens to be a myth, and no such event as a massacre of the Bards ever took place.

49½ m. **Penmaenmawr Stat.** (*Inns*: *Penmaenmawr Hotel, close to Stat., makes up 100 beds; Wyatt's boarding house), a village of villas and lodging-houses scattered for a mile along the curved slopes of the moun-

tains, here rising abruptly from the sea between Penmaenmawr and Penmaen Bach. It has sprung into celebrity as a watering-place since Mr. Gladstone took up his residence here (in the mansion of Plas Mawr) during several summers. It has the advantage of a dry bracing air, a sandy beach with bathing machines, a well-served parish ch., and frequent rly. trains.

Several hundred men find employment in quarrying building stone and road-paving cubes out of the green feldspathic porphyry at *Craig Llwyd*, whose side is disfigured with stone heaps and 2 tramways leading down to 2 wooden piers, where the stone is shipped. The summit, 1540 ft. above the sea, may be reached by a path leaving the quarries on rt. It commands a view over Anglesey, the Straits, Isle of Man in distance, Great Orme's Head and Point of Air.

Other *Excursions*: *b.* To the Druid Stones (*Meini Hirion*) on top of the mountain, reached from Post-office by road leaving Fern Cottage on rt., crossing a field and then following a steep path along rt. side of a deep ravine, once perhaps a British trackway, which leads to the top. The circle of stones 6 or 7 ft. high is on the top, and is partly surrounded by a sort of natural moat, while fallen ramparts of rude stones stretch across the valley from Penmaenmawr.

[On the summit of Penmaenmawr are many early remains—as the British post of *Braich-y-Ddinas*, surmounting Dinas Penmaen, a conical hill on the table-surface of Penmaenmawr, in which circuits of loose stone walls may be traced about 12 ft. high and 12 ft. thick, without any attempt at masonry. There are also circular cells or *cyttiau*, some singularly perfect, and one still roofed, which may probably have served as residences for the garrison

of what was once the most impregnable position in North Wales. On a plateau near the eminence of *Moelfre*, a mile or so to the S., are *carneddau*, *meini-hirion*, and circles, proving the importance in which these coast-heights were held both in military and religious estimation. *Y Meini Hirion*, the most remarkable of these, consists of a circle of ten upright stones, smaller stones between the greater completing the circle. At the *Carnedd* of *Moelfre*, three upright stones, placed triangle-wise, gave rise to a tradition of three women having been changed to stones representing the hue of their respective clothes, for winnowing corn on the Sabbath morning. The pedestrian had better make directly for the shoulder of *Penmaenmawr*. Still more S. a road runs between *Aber* and *Caerhun* (*Conovium*), through the solitary pass of *Bwlch-y-Ddeufaen*, which was once a Roman road, and very probably a British trackway in still earlier times. By following the road, which in places is indistinct, the pedestrian may descend into the valley of the *Conwy* at *Tal-y-Cafn* ferry, 8 m. By this pass it is probable that the Roman army, commanded by *Agricola*, appeared before the island of *Anglesey*. He had no ships, *Tacitus* tells us, but was led by native auxiliaries who knew the fords and were practised swimmers. He suddenly terrified by his presence the unfortunate Britons who were looking for him by sea: "*Qui classem, qui naves, qui mare expectabant.*"—*Vit Agric.*]

A Roman milestone found here marks the 8th mile from *Conovium* (*Caerhun*).

Immediately after rounding the base of *Penmaenmawr* the traveller gains lovely views of the coast of *Anglesey*, *Puffin Island*, and *Beaumaris*, which is no great distance

across. On l. is the pretty village of

Llanfairfechan Stat., a rising little watering-place, on a rich mountain slope, where is a residence built by the late Mr. Platt of *Oldham*, called '*Bryn-neuadd.*'

54½ m. *Aber Stat.* (*Inn*: *Bulkeley Arms*, close to the rly. stat., good). For beauty of situation the village of *Aber*, in full, *Aber Gwynnregyn* (*the stream of white shells*) can hardly be surpassed. It is an agreeable quiet summer resort, on account of its charming situation at the mouth of a glen in which are 2 fine waterfalls. It is placed at the foot of a grand amphitheatre of mountains. The river on which the village stands is formed by 2 or 3 small streams, the main one rising in *Llyn-ar-afon*, a little tarn at the foot of the steep precipices of *Moelfras*, up the glen to the S.E., 4 m. The river is open to every angler, on condition that flies only are used for fishing.

It is a romantic walk of about 2½ m. from *Aber* to the *Waterfalls*; the larger dashing over the rocks at the foot of *Llwydmor* and *Bera*, at a height of 170 ft. "This fall has been compared to the *Staubbach* in the valley of *Lauterbrunnen.*" (?) Caution is necessary in pursuing the path near the waterfall, as it is in places very slippery, and fatal accidents have happened. "About ¼ m. to the rt. is another fall, of very inferior volume, but of a greater height. The lofty mountains in the background are *Carnedd Dafydd* (3427 ft.) and *Carnedd Llewellyn* (3469 ft.), at least 3 m. distant, which are sometimes ascended from here. It is, however, a long and fatiguing pull, and the easiest ascents may be made from the *Conwy Valley*, near *Llanrwst* (*Rte. 12*), or from near *Llyn-Ogwen*.

Between *Beaumaris* and *Aber* (3 m.) are the *Lavan Sands* or *Sands of Lamentation*, which at low water

may be traversed, except a narrow breadth of sea in the middle, which must be crossed in a boat, offering a direct passage to the opposite coast of Anglesey, and affording often picturesque effects, in the large groups of people dotted over them gathering cockles. But it is better to take the rly. to Bangor and thence by ferry.

From Aber the rly. takes a course rather inland, and the tourist soon gains a fine view (rt.) of the noble woods and towers of *Penrhyn Castle* (Lord Penrhyn) (Rte. 7).

At 58 m. the Ogwen river is crossed on a lofty viaduct, leaving the model village of *Llandegai* on rt., soon after which, by a succession of cuttings and through 2 tunnels, between which the Bethesda Rly. falls in, the traveller reaches

60 m. BANGOR STAT. (Rte. 7), situated between 2 tunnels; $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the Cathedral, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Upper Bangor, $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. from the George Hotel, Menai Bridge.

ROUTE 5.

ABERGELE TO DENBIGH, BY BETTWS AND LLANFAIR TALHAIARN. — FOOTPATH UP THE RIVERS ALED AND ELWY.

These excursions should not be undertaken without an Ordnance map, as the roads are bad and intricate, and the accommodation is limited to an occasional "public."

By those who are fond of pene-

trating into untrodden districts with sketch-book or fishing-rod, a very tempting pedestrian tour may be taken into the upper portion of the romantic valley of the *Elwy* through the village of *Bettws Abergele*, or *Bettws-yn-Rhos*, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. is *Coed Coch*, the seat of J. Lloyd Wynne, Esq. 1 m. beyond, the roads diverge, the one to the rt. descending the hills on the l. bank of the *Elwy*, until *Llangerniw* is reached (about 11 m.), in the ch.-yd. of which are two pairs of large upright stones lying E. and W., one pair bearing a roughly incised cross (D. R. Thomas). From hence the bridle-road to *Llanrwst* (Rte. 12) may be followed up the dingle of the *Afon-dyffryn-gallt*. The distance from *Abergele* to *Llanrwst* by this cross-country route is 17 m.

5 m. S. of *Llangerniw* is the secluded little village of *Gwytherin*, at the foot of the lonely *Hiraethog Hills*, near the rise of the *Elwy*. Here stood the nunnery of which the holy St. Winifred of *Holywell* was the head. Here is the *Vinnemagli* inscribed stone.

By a second route the pedestrian can proceed from *Bettws* to *Llanfair Talhaiarn*, 5 m. from *Abergele* (*Inns*: *Black Lion H.*; *Harp*), a village beautifully situated on the rt. bank of the *Elwy*, opposite the wooded park of *Garthwin* (R. W. Wynne, Esq.), in the ch.-yd. of which parish sleeps the 'Welsh Burns,' John Jones (*Tallhaiarn*), under the shade of a grand old yew to the right. He may from thence explore the *Elwy* downwards to *St. Asaph*, or across the hills to *Llansannan* (*Inn*: *Saracen's Head*) on the banks of the *Aled*, a tributary which joins the *Elwy* at *Pontygwidel*, 2 m. below *Llanfair*.

In the neighbourhood are *Dyffryn Aled*, once the residence of Philip Yorke, author of the 15 Royal Tribes of Wales, now the seat of P. W. Yorke,

Esq., and *Ewdd Arthur*, or Arthur's Round Table, a British amphitheatre mentioned by Leland:—"There is in the parish of Llansannan, in the side of a strong hill, a place where there be 24 holes, or places, in a roundel for men to sit in, but som lesse and som bigge, cutte out of the mayn rocke by manne's hand; and ther children and young men cumming to seeke their cattele used to sitte and play." The *Aled* is even more romantic than the Elwy. In the upper part of its course it runs through a narrow dingle, in which there are 2 very picturesque waterfalls, *Llyn-yr-Ogo* and *Rhaiadr Mawr*, about 5 m. from Llansannan. The former is the smallest, but of most peculiar character, "being completely shaded by trees, the river falling into a dark cylindrical basin at the bottom of a finely-wooded dell." From the latter village to *Denbigh* (Rte. 11) it is about 9 m.

British station of the Ordovices. In the 11th cent. a castle of considerable importance was erected by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, which, after undergoing considerable mutations during the stormy times of the 13th cent., was eventually demolished by Llewelyn in 1262. Previous to its destruction, Henry III. was shut up here, and experienced with his garrison great distress. In the valley beneath is the cruciform *Church* (restored) of *Eglwys Rhos*, containing an oak roof and stained glass, and monuments to the Mostyns.

On *Brynian Hill*, 1 m. off, a stump tower, 72 ft. in circuit, 20 ft. high, with an opening in centre, of unknown origin (? Norse), may deserve notice.

[The high road from Conway to Llandudno passes near *Bodysgallen* (M. Hollins, Esq.), and *Gloddaeth*, the ancient Elizabethan seat of Lady Augusta Mostyn. It is charmingly situated on the slope of a well-wooded hill, and its shady walks are a great attraction to the visitors from Llandudno, to whom access to the grounds is liberally allowed. In the entrance hall are some fine timber-work and carving.]

ROUTE 6.

CONWAY TO LLANDUDNO AND THE ORME'S HEAD.

Rail., 10 or 12 trains daily, in 10 minutes from Llandudno Junct. Stat., opposite Conway.

The line at first skirts the Conwy estuary.

Dyganwy Stat. A small steamer ascends the Conwy from this, when tide favours, as far up as Trefriw (Rte. 12).

Fragments of walls and grassy mounds, the scanty remains of *Castle Dyganwy*, occupy an eminence just above the rly. It was formerly a

3 m. **Llandudno Stat.** (*Inns*: Imperial; St. George's: both first class; Adelphi H.; Queen's—all facing the sea.

Post Office in Mostyn Street, the chief thoroughfare parallel with the seashore.

Llandudno occupies a peculiar and striking situation on the shore of a gently curving bay between 2 lofty rocky promontories, the higher Great Orme's Head rises on the W., the Little Orme's Head on the E. In 1850 it was an insignificant village, hardly known and little resorted to, but its attractive situation, pure air and good sea-bathing have

caused it to expand into a town of 4838 Inhab. It has now become a Welsh Brighton, not only from the abundance, but the excellent quality of the accommodations offered to the visitor. It is much frequented in summer by the Liverpool people. Its main features are a handsome crescent *Parade*, following the sweep of the bay, with clean streets of good shops running across from it to the Conwy sands. The town possesses the unusual advantage of lying between 2 bays, each with a different aspect, and allowing the enjoyment of bathing in almost any weather. The three drawbacks are the high winds, the want of vegetation and shade, and the very high prices often demanded for lodgings. One of its earliest patrons was John Bright, who passes many of his summer vacations here. The land from Llandudno to Dyganwy is now in the hands of a company, and extended building-works are in progress.

There is a *Pier*, 400 yds. long (opened 1877), with landing-stage, &c., at N.W. end of the *Parade*, and Swimming Baths under the Pavilion Public Rooms; a band plays here in summer. A news room with Library has been opened in Mostyn St., subscription 1s. a week, or 2d. a day. At E. end of the *Parade* is a large *Hydropathic Establishment* and winter residence. For an excellent view of the town, and 2 bays, &c., the visitor should ascend the hill overlooking the public baths near entrance to *Pier*.

Llandudno is sheltered from the N.W. by the *Great*, and from the E. by the *Little, Orme's Head*, both of them, but especially the former, being enormous masses of the "mountain limestone," corresponding with the Eglwyseg rocks near Llangollen, rising precipitously from the sea for several hundred feet, and forming striking objects in the coast landscapes for miles around.

The most interesting thing here is the wonderful *Carriage Drive*, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m. in length, cut in the rock round the Great Head, underneath the cliffs, and at the edge of precipices above the sea. From the old Telegraph Station (750 ft.) there is a magnificent "birdseye view of Llandudno beneath, while the bright blue waters of the sea on either hand, the hills of Gloddaeth, the conical rock of Maelgwyn towering in the centre of the plain, the gables of Bodysgallen peeping through their ancestral trees, the majestic ruins and bridges of Conway, combine to form a prospect of wondrous beauty, which, bounded by the undulating outlines of the mountains, is worth a pilgrimage to contemplate."

—*Hicklin*. There is a cromlech of 4 upright stones surmounted by another transversely; and the British fortress of *Pen-y-Ddinas* overlooking the town, and still preserving portions of wall and numerous circular houses: at one corner is a rocking-stone, known as Cryd Tudno, the cradle of Tudno.

The secluded *parish Church* of *St. Tudno*, on N. side of the Great Orme's Head, may be reached from this road. It lay for many years in a ruinous state, but was restored in a simple taste by W. H. Reece, Esq., of Birmingham, in 1855. As early as the 7th cent. it is supposed that *St. Tudno* founded on this spot an oratory on which the original ch. was erected in the 12th cent., and a subsequent Perp. chancel added. In the interior are an ancient circular font and 2 incised coffin-lids of the 13th cent. In the ch.-yd. is buried a son of Mr. John Bright, M.P. In summer Sunday services are held here.

On the S.E. side of the headland is *Gogarth*, where the remains of a large building still exist, partly of early and partly of mediæval character, said to have been a palace of the Bishops of Bangor or a monastic

institution subject to the Abbey of Conway. Leland mentions it in his Itinerary, but little is known of its history, and the hand of time has effaced most of its vestiges.

The geologist will find on the Orme's Head many good casts of fossils. On the top of the head, N.W. of the copper-mine, is a bed of brachiopodous shells, *Producti*, *Spiriferæ*, &c. From thence "let the collector's walk be extended down the slope that, leaving the telegraph to the rt., leads to the sea, and let him notice the shaled about 6 ft. below, which is little else than a mass of delicate fossils, exquisitely preserved through chalcidization, and comprising the rarest and most beautiful forms of corals and sponges, *Enerinites* of several species."—*Roberts*.

In 1881 a cave was opened in the limestone rock behind Mostyn St., below the Camera, which appears to have been a burial-place of a former race of men, as remains of 4 human beings were found in it, along with a necklace of teeth of animals, bored for a string; also teeth of cave-bears and various domestic animals.

The woods and grounds of *Gloddaeth* (see above) afford pleasant shady walks. Follow the Conway road from Mostyn St. to Eglwyseg Rhos Ch., $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. Visitors should not intrude near the house.

The ch. of *Llandrillo-yn-Rhos*, 6 m. from Llandudno by new road and Little Orme's Head, is a handsome double-aisled Perp. ch., with a tower remarkable for having double-stepped battlements. In the interior is a E. Eng. font. About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. distant is *Capel Trillo*, a rude little building, with a barrel vault of the Irish Oratory type, enclosing a spring of water, close to which is Plas Mynach (J. P. Evans, Esq.), a favourite excursion from Llandudno, on account of the

weir on the foreshore for the capture, at low water, of fish. From Llandrillo a road leads direct to Colwyn (Rte. 4), $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., or the return to Llandudno may be made by a very pleasant walk past the woods of *Gloddaeth*. *Llys Eurian*, to the S. of Llandrillo, marks the site of an ancient palace of Maelgwn Gwynedd prior to his residence at Deganwy.

On *Puffin Island* is an old tower, dating from 7th to 12th cent.

Llandudno is very favourably placed for making

Excursions into N. Wales:

To Conway Castle, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. ($\frac{1}{2}$ hour by rly.), is in Rte. 4.

To Penmaenmawr, 9 m. (1 hour by rly.), also in Rte. 4.

To Bangor Cath., 19 m., and Penrhyn Castle (2 m. more, shown on Tuesday by ticket).

To Menai Bridges, 21 m., in Rte. 7.

To Penrhyn Slate Quarries, Nant Ffrancon, and Llyn Ogwen.

Caernarvon Castle, 28 m., Rte. 12.

To Llanberis village, at the foot of Snowdon, 38 m.; ascent of *Snowdon* and descent, 6 hours, a long day's excursion from Llandudno.

Llanrwst, 15 m.; and Gwydir, 2 m.—to Bettws-y-Coed, 4 m. further by Rail, Rte. 12.

During the summer months daily *Steamers* to and from Liverpool, and occasionally to and from Caernarvon and Beaumaris, call off the Pier at Llandudno.

ROUTE 7.

BANGOR TO HOLYHEAD, BY THE
MENAI BRIDGES.—THE MENAI
STRAITS.

Bangor Stat., in a hollow, between 2 tunnels, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the Cathedral; $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Upper Bangor; $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. from Garth Ferry on the Strait. (*Inns*: Castle, High-street; British Hotel, near the stat.; $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. W., close to the Suspension Bridge, is the George, a comfortable hotel, the best quarters.)

Bangor (i.e. Ban Chor, the High Church) the chief town in N. Wales (9026 Inhab.), stands in a hollow descending to Garth Ferry, on the Menai Straits, but stretches up to the slopes of the hillsides. It is a prosperous place, carrying on much commerce and shipbuilding, and is the export haven of the slates from Lord Penrhyn's quarries. It is a favourite resort of tourists, owing to its pleasant position and the number of excursions which can conveniently be made from it.

Bangor has been selected as the seat of the *University College* for N. Wales, founded by liberal donations and subscriptions raised in the Principality. For its local habitation has been chosen the prettiest spot in Bangor, the old Penrhyn Arms Hotel, commanding, as it does, from its *Gardens* lovely views over the Straits, along the wooded point of Garth, and shores of Anglesey, Beaumaris, Puffin Island, Great Orme's Head, and nearer, of Penmaenmawr.

The stables have been converted into Scientific Laboratories for students.

From the winding High-street, through which runs the old Holyhead road, you look down upon the *Cathedral*, which, like Llandaff and St. David's, is situated in a

hollow surrounded by hills, and it consequently loses much of its effect. It is a handsome Gothic cross-church, with a central and a W. tower, not much larger than many parish churches, and has been well and thoroughly restored by Sir Gilbert Scott, who began about 1866, and did not finish till c. 1875, repairing transepts, raising central tower, replacing much modern Perp. by original E. E. work, and redeeming the building from a state of comparative degradation into which it had fallen. It is dedicated to St. Deiniol (Daniel), the first bishop, who lived in the 6th cent. during the reign of Maelgwn Gwynedd, King of Wales. It has sustained more than the usual number of reverses, having been destroyed twice—first by the Saxons in 1071, and again during the wars of Owain Glyndwr in 1402, after which it remained in ruins for nearly a century. By far the greater portion of the ch. was, up to 1870, Perp. work of the 16th cent., with fragments of the 13th-cent. work. The western tower, of 3 stages, was built by Bishop Skevyngton in 1532, and is 60 ft. in height.

The nave is 114 ft. in length, the 6 arches being Perp. In each aisle are 6 windows of three lights, those in the N. aisle *Perp.*, those of the S. *Dec.* The clerestory windows are of triple lights, without foliation.

Under Sir G. Scott's direction the transepts have resumed their original *Dec.* character, in conformity with the fragments which he found built into the tottering walls erected in the 16th cent., and with good general effect.

The choir, erected by Bishop Deane in 1496, has been restored as it stood; so that all the space under the tower is available for united worship. The *Perp.* windows are unaltered. The carved stalls and *pavement* are entirely new; and the roof, restored to its older and higher pitch, consists

internally of a rich timber vaulting gilt and coloured. Two tombs of the 14th century, and of early decorated work, occupy either side of the choir, close to the tower piers, probably those of Bp. Anian, the Saxon, on the N. side, and of Tudor ap Grono ap Tudor on the S. side. A Welsh "bard" of great local repute, the Rev. Goronwy Owen, who was born in Anglesey in 1722, and educated at Jesus College, Oxford, has a mural tablet in the N. transept.

Here began the celebrated Bangorian controversy between Bishops Hoadly and Sherlock, named after this see, over which Hoadly presided from 1715 to 1721.

The *Grammar School*, which bears rather a high reputation, was founded by Dr. Jeffery Glyn in 1537, on the site of an ancient Priory. Adjoining the cathedral stand the modest Episcopal palace and the house of the canons.

In the High-street is a small local *Museum*, the upper story being occupied as a News Room.

The gorse hill rising behind the High-street and running parallel with it, is called the *Recreation Ground*, and was given to the town by Lord Penrhyn. It is worth ascending for the sake of the view over the town and Straits, and S. to the mountains behind Bethesda and above Nant Ffrancon. At the N.E. extremity of the High-street, under the garden of the old Penrhyn Arms, is *Port Penrhyn*, the small sheltered harbour where Lord Penrhyn's slates, brought down from the quarries by rail, are shipped for all parts of the world.

Excursions.

To Penrhyn Castle, 2 m. (Tuesday and Thursday).

To Lord Penrhyn's Slate Quarries at Bethesda, 6 m.; *Rail*—to Lynn Ogwen, 6 m. further, on the way to Bettws-y-Coed (Rte. 12A).

To the Menai Bridges: Chain

Bridge, $1\frac{3}{4}$ m.; Tubular Bridge, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m., or $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Llanfair Stat.

To Beaumaris and Castle, by Menai Bridge, 8 m.; by Garth Ferry, 4 m.

To Conway Castle, by rly. 14 m. in $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.

To Caernarvon Castle, by rly.

To Llanberis (by rly. $1\frac{1}{4}$ hour) and Snowdon, Rte. 17.

Steamers, twice daily in summer, from Garth Ferry to Menai Bridge and Caernarvon: to Beaumaris, Llandudno, and to Liverpool.

Railways to Chester and London; to Holyhead, by the Menai Bridge; to Caernarvon, Llanberis, Tremadoc, and Harlech. To Bethesda.

2 m. from Bangor is *Penrhyn Castle*, the residence of Lord Penrhyn, to which admission is granted, 10 to 5, by ticket on Tuesdays, when the family is at home; and Tuesday and Thursday when absent. The tickets are obtained at the hotels, at the rate of 2s. for one and 3s. for two; the funds arising from this source being partly devoted to the Infirmary. *Entrance* at Port Penrhyn.

Penrhyn is a stately building in the Norm. style, erected from the designs of an architect named Hopper; 14 years were employed in raising it, and no less a sum than half a million (it is said) expended on its construction. Seated on an eminence embowered in trees, its tall keep tower and turrets have at a distance a very imposing aspect; but on entering within its walls, the effect is less agreeable. It is to be regretted that, with the beautiful examples of Conway and Caernarvon close at hand, recourse should not have been had to a later style than the Norm. The interior is sumptuously furnished, with perhaps an excess of decoration. Throughout the house there is a goodly array of very costly furniture, sculptured chinney-pieces, painted glass, oak carving and panelling, cabinets of ebony and

other precious materials. In one of the bedrooms is a bedstead, the frame of which is formed of slate, elegantly finished. One of the heir-looms of Penrhyn is the Hirlas, or drinking-horn, commemorated by Mrs. Hemans, and said to be a relic of Piers Gryffydd, the Elizabethan owner of the estate. The stables are remarkable for their extent, and the abundant use made in them of slate. The castle walls are built of sad-coloured Mona marble, which when polished assumes a black tint. The park, which is intersected by the Ogwen, has a circuit of 7 miles, and its rich woods and undulating ground form, with the towers of the castle, a charming addition to the magnificent panorama around.

Close to the principal entrance are the *Church* and model village of *Llandegai* (Rte. 12A).

The harbour of Port Penrhyn, close to Bangor, was formed by Lord Penrhyn, one of the greatest benefactors that N. Wales ever possessed, at the mouth of the little river Cegid, for the purpose of shipping the slates from the quarries at Bethesda. It is a busy little port.

Bangor to Menai Bridge (2 m.)
and *Holyhead*.

Quitting the Bangor Stat., the rly. is carried through a tunnel and deep cuttings to the shore of the Strait.

6½ m. *Menai Bridge Junct. Stat.*, 1 m. from the Suspension Bridge and the George Hotel, a comfortable house in a garden, situated on the banks of the Menai, in full view of the bridge. Here the Line to Caernarvon (Rte. 14) branches off l.

The Menai Straits, 12 m. in length, may be said to commence at Beaumaris and end at Caernarvon, occasionally narrowing, as at the points crossed by the Suspension and Tubular Bridges, between which they become considerably wider. For nearly the whole distance the scenery

is of a soft and lovely character, the woods on both sides feathering down to the water's edge, occasionally relieved by a mass of rocks standing out from the foliage. For the first 5 m. well-kept roads run along either bank, which, on the Anglesey side especially, is so lined with residences and villas as to give it the aspect of a continuous suburb. At different points the Straits are crossed by 5 ferries, which previous to the erection of the bridges constituted the only means of communication between Anglesey and the mainland; but the navigation was so dangerous, particularly at the Ferry of *Moel-y-don*, where the Tubular Bridge now crosses, that the attention of Government was at length directed to the matter. It was full time that it should be so, as between the years 1664 and 1842 no less than 180 passengers had been drowned while crossing. As early as 1810 more than one design for a bridge had been submitted and rejected; but it was not until the completion of the great Holyhead road by Telford that some permanent means of crossing was felt to be a necessity. He selected a spot called *Ynys-y-moch*, where the bold, rocky shores on each side gave opportunities for a lofty roadway, which is carried 100 ft. above high-water mark, so as to allow a full-sized vessel to pass underneath. The 16 chains were raised from a raft moored in the middle of the Strait by capstans and pulleys, and then firmly bolted together; they are carried over the supporting piers upon rollers, allowing them a certain play backwards and forwards conformable with the contraction and expansion of the iron, so that the alterations of temperature may bring no strain on any part of the stonework. The double roadway of timber rests on iron joists, suspended by rods from the chains above, and protected at the sides by a high

trelliswork of iron. The bridge was opened in 1821 by the passage across of the Holyhead mail. A sensible vibration is produced by the passage of a vehicle, or even of a man and horse, but the chains, offering little resistance, have withstood, without shifting, the severest storms, though the roadway was considerably shattered by one which occurred in January 1839, since which it has been thoroughly repaired and strengthened. The weight which the chains support is calculated at 489 tons, and that which they are capable of supporting at 2016 tons, leaving an available power of 1520 tons to resist any unusual strain. The total cost of the construction of the bridge was 120,000*l*. It is difficult with the eye to estimate its colossal proportions, and it is only after observing attentively the vehicles and human figures crossing it, which look at a distance like flies caught in the meshes of a spider's web, that it is fully appreciated. By descending the bank on the Anglesey side the best near view is obtained; here it is easy to approach the piers, and pass under the lofty stone arches; and seen from this spot, the proportions are truly gigantic. By applying at the bridge-house on the same side, admission may be obtained to see the manner in which the chains pass through the rock and are made fast to it, at the end of a gallery 300 ft. long, by bolts of wrought iron passing behind a thick plate of cast iron.

The masonry of the bridge is of a hard limestone, brought from Penmon in Anglesey. Beneath the bridge, close to one of the main piers, is a remarkable echo described by Sir John Herschel.

Dimensions.—Length of the suspended portion from pier to pier, 579 ft.; total length of the roadway, 1000 ft.; height of the roadway above high-water mark, 100 ft.; height of the two main piers, 153 ft.; total length of

each chain, 1714 ft., or nearly one-third of a mile; weight of each, 121 tons; total weight of ironwork, 2186 tons.*

It is a walk of $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. by the Holyhead road from the Chain bridge to the Tubular Bridge, the direct distance is about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile.

*** On the Caernarvon side of the Strait, the direct road between the two bridges lies through the grounds of Treborth, which being strictly closed, visitors must make the circuit to Treborth Station.

From the stat. at Menai Bridge the rly. descends by a gentle incline to the banks of the Menai, which it crosses by means of the

Britannia Tubular Bridge, the most peculiar and wonderful bridge in the world. The difficulties, which appeared almost insurmountable, of furnishing any means by which a train could be taken across the Straits, were further augmented by the jealous requirements of the Admiralty, who rejected Stephenson's first design of a bridge of 2 cast-iron arches of 100 ft. in height, because the spring of each arch was only 50 ft. above the water. The project of an iron tubular bridge was, however, more favourably received, and after a series of experiments to ascertain the comparative resisting properties of cast and wrought iron, as well as the most serviceable form of tube, rectangular tubes of wrought iron were adopted. The site of the bridge was chosen on account of the happy position of a rock in the middle of the Straits, suited for the resting-place of one of the piers, which was forthwith commenced in May 1846. The bridge is supported on either shore by very massive abutments, 2 land towers (1 on each side), and the centre or Britannia

* The bridge at Freiburg in Switzerland of iron wire, also passable for carriages, is 325 ft. longer and 44 ft. higher than this over the Menai.

tower rising to a height of 230 ft., with a width at the base of 62 by 52 ft., though as it ascends it tapers away to 55 by 45 ft. The land towers are only 190 ft. high, and are connected with the abutments by tubes each 230 ft. long, each tower being at a distance of 460 ft. from the central tower. They are connected by 2 enormous rectangular tubes, placed side by side to allow the passage of the up and down trains.

The sides, top, and bottom of these tubes are composed of wrought-iron plates, joined together by iron rivets, of which upwards of 2,000,000 were used. The plates are further strengthened by T-shaped irons at the joints, forming a complete pillar every 2 ft. Notwithstanding the flat and even appearance of the bridge, the upper surface forms a parabolic curve, while the bottom is straight. A series of 8 cells at the top and 6 at the bottom, ranged in hollow compartments, and having a parallel direction to the long axis of the tube, have the effect of placing the resistance of compression and expansion nearly in equilibrium. The deflection of the tubes from the passage of a train with 200 tons of coals was only $\frac{1}{10}$ of an in., it being calculated that a deflection of 13 inches might be allowed in safety. The tubes were constructed on vast timber platforms, erected by the shore at high-water mark, and the first was floated on June 19th, 1849, just 3 years after the foundation of the central tower. The flotation was effected by the introduction of 8 pontoons under the platform, which was then towed away to its position at high tide by the application of enormous hawsers and capstans. When it arrived at its destination, with such nicety had the details been calculated, that the tube fitted into its place within $\frac{1}{2}$ of an in. It was subsequently raised to its elevation by an enormously powerful

Bramah's hydraulic press placed in the central tower, which lifted it up at the rate of 6 ft. a day, the masonry being regularly built up at the same rate to support its weight. The tubes are permanently fixed in the central tower, but at either end they travel on movable iron rollers, so as to allow for the contraction and expansion of the metal at different temperatures, the variation in length for summer and winter being estimated at 12 in. The lateral deflection of the tubes at any time from gales of wind has never exceeded $\frac{1}{2}$ of an in. Two colossal figures of lions couchant guard each entrance. Although the bridge is unquestionably anything but elegant, nobody can view it without being powerfully impressed with its strength and security, and with the wonderful genius and energy of its builders.

Measurements.

Rise and fall of the tide . . .	20 ft.
Velocity	often 84 m. an hour.
Entire length of bridge . . .	1833 ft.
Length of tubes between land towers	230 ft.
Length of main tubes . . .	472 ft.
Height of Britannia tower . .	230 ft.
Height of land towers . . .	190 ft.
Weight of tubes	10,000 tons.

The bridge was begun 1846 and opened March 18, 1850. The total cost was 600,000*l*.

Visitors are permitted to view the bridge, and may ascend by stairs to the top of the tubes, but may not walk through it without the watchman, from fear of danger from passing trains.

63 m. *Llanfair Stat.* on the Isle of Anglesey. A path leads from the Stat. to the bridge, 1 m. Immediately above the Tubular Bridge in the direction of Caernarvon, on the Anglesey side of the Straits, is a *Colossal Statue* of Admiral Lord Nelson, designed by Lord Clarence Paget, and moulded under his superintendence at his residence Plas Llanfair.

Close to the water's edge, on the Anglesey side, is the pretty broach spire of *Llanfair-pwll-gwynnyll* Ch., which has been rebuilt. In the ch.-yd. is a neat obelisk, erected in memory of the workmen who died during the progress of the bridge. Considering the hazardous nature of the employment, the number of deaths by accident was remarkably small.

On the eminence of *Craig-y-Ddinas*, on rt. of rly. and turnpike-road, $\frac{1}{4}$ m. from Tubular Bridge, is the *Anglesey Column*, 100 ft. high, which was erected to commemorate the military career of the late gallant Marquis of Anglesey, who after the battle of Waterloo went to

“Review, rout, or play,
With one foot in the grave.”

The column is crowned with a colossal statue of him in bronze by *Noble*, put up in 1860.

The visitor should ascend the rock (260 ft.) if not the column itself (admittance 3d.) for the sake of the *Panorama*, one of the finest in Wales; below runs the Strait, winding like a broad river, and along the horizon rises the majestic outline of the Welsh Alps, from Penmaenmawr on the extreme l. to Snowdon and his contiguous peaks on the rt. The pass of Nant Ffrancon, through which the Holyhead road passes to Shrewsbury, is distinctly seen, and in front of it rises Penrhyn Castle.

Many residences are scattered about on the banks of the Straits, which at this particular bend are richly wooded. Close to Llanfair Ch. is *Plas Llanfair* (Lord Clarence Paget), beyond which is the tiny port of *Pwll-fanog*. Next comes the demesne of *Plas Newydd*, the modern seat of the Marquis of Anglesey. The situation of this mansion is all that can be desired, it being sheltered on every side, with the exception of the river front, by fine woods, “the de-

scendants of the ancient Llwyn Moel, one of the principal groves dedicated to Druidic worship.” The number of cromlechs and early remains in this neighbourhood testify to the religious importance of this district. *Plas Newydd* is noted for having been the temporary residence of George IV., who paid a visit to the Marquis of Anglesey on his way to Ireland; subsequently of her Majesty the Queen, who, as Princess Victoria, spent a summer here in 1832.

Within the grounds, and near the principal drive to the house, opposite the stables, are 2 *Cromlechs*, the largest of which was until late years the most perfect in the Principality, the top stone being 12 ft. long by 10 ft. broad. The larger stone is 14 ft. long, 13 broad, and from 3 to 5 thick. $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S.W. of the mansion, and of the 2 cromlechs, is a *Kistvaen* close to a path leading to Llanedwen Ch. It is within a high bank of stones, in the shape of a quadrant of a circle, and the large capstone, 7 ft. square, is supported by rough slablike stones at the sides, and one at the back. A smaller capstone, 4 ft. square, is behind the larger, but not over the main chamber. A stone which seems to have had a circular aperture fills the lower half of the entrance. There are not less than 28 cromlechs still existing in different parts of the island, but this is probably the most perfect monument of the sort in Britain. At the back of *Plas Newydd* is *Plas Gwyn*, the birthplace of the Rev. H. Rowlands, author of ‘*Mona Antiqua*.’ It is now called *Plas Llwynon* (The Hon. C. Fitzmaurice).

To the S. of *Plas Newydd* is *Plas Coch*, a fine old Elizabethan house, erected in the 16th cent. by Hugh Hughes, Attorney-General. It is still the seat of the family of Hughes which has been seated in Anglesey ever since the 12th cent. From hence the tourist who does not wish

to proceed to Llanidan may return to *Gaerwen* Stat. ($3\frac{1}{2}$ m.), or, if he prefer it, may cross the ferry at *Moel-y-don* to the little port of *Dinorwic* (Rte. 14), on the opposite bank, where the slates from Mr. Assheton Smith's great quarries are shipped to all parts of the world. Both this ferry and *Porthamel*, a spot a little lower down, have been the scene of great military events. At *Moel-y-don* part of Edward I.'s army crossed by a bridge of boats, and met with a severe defeat from the Welsh, in 1282; and at the latter place the Roman general Suetonius effected a landing A.D. 60 by the same means. The Druids fiercely disputed the attempt, and with such loss that a spot between *Porthamel* and the river is still called *Bryn Beddau*, or the Hill of Graves. The same passage was chosen a few years later by *Agricola*. The historian *Tacitus* gives a graphic account of the engagement, which in fact proved the deathblow to Druidic worship: "*Præsidium impositum victis, excisique luci, sævis superstitionibus sacri.*"

[The district between Llanidan and the river *Braint* teems with early remains, all of which are described in Rowland's '*Mona Antiqua*,' though many have disappeared in the course of time. The principal of them are *Caer-leb*, thought to have been a Roman stat., as a Roman road has been at times traced running in a direction towards the *Menai*; *Tre'r Driw*, or residence of the Arch-Druid, of which some remains were visible in Pennant's time; *Brein-gwyn*, a circular hollow, considered to have been the tribunal under the Druidic dispensation; a large cromlech 9 ft. long by 7 broad at *Perthi-Duon*; a 2nd cromlech in good preservation at *Bodowyr*; semicircular dykes at *Gwydryn* and *Castell Edris*. All these spots are little more than a mile

radius from Llanidan, and point out the extreme importance, both in a religious and military point of view, of this portion of Anglesey. In about 3 m. from Llanidan the pedestrian can reach the *Tal-y-foel* ferry and cross the *Menai Straits* in a small steamer to *Caernarvon* (Rte. 14).]

[3 m. from Llanfair, in *Penmynydd* Ch. are marble effigies of a knight and lady of the Tudor family, but not *Owen Tudor* as erroneously asserted. Close by is *Plas Penmynydd*, an ancient house of the date of 1370, the birthplace of *Owen Tudor*, the husband of *Catherine of France*, widow of *Henry V.* and *Queen Dowager of England*.]

66 m. *Gaerwen Junct.* (Rte. 9). From this diverges the *Anglesey Central Rly.* to *Amlwch*, cutting the island nearly in half from S.E. to N. The great *Holyhead* road runs from the *Tubular Bridge* almost side by side with the rly., which it quits a little before reaching this stat.

The traveller by rail or road will be struck with the magnificent views of the *Snowdonian Mountains* from the N. shore of the *Straits*. With this exception the part of *Anglesey* traversed by the rail is flat, barren, and monotonous. At 71 m. the rly. crosses by a viaduct over the embanked tidal river of the *Mall-draeth*, having on l. *Bodorgan*, the beautiful seat of *Sir G. Fuller Meyrick, Bt. (post.)*

72½ m. *Bodorgan Stat.* (Inn: *Meyrick Arms*), the nearest point for visiting *Aberffraw* and *Newborough*. Close to the stat. l. is *Llyn Coron*, of considerable size, and affording good fishing. From it issues the little river *Ffraw*, which falls into the sea at *Aberffraw*, 2½ m. l., now a paltry village, but at one time the royal residence of *Roderic the Great*, A.D.

870, and subsequently of Llewelyn, who had a palace here at the time of his death, 1282. The sands have so completely overwhelmed the neighbourhood, that no traces of these buildings now exist. The ch., which has been restored, has 2 aisles, and contains an interesting doorway of the 12th cent. in the S. aisle. The font is of the 14th cent. The *Prince Llewelyn* is a comfortable *Inn*, and good head-quarters for anglers in Llyn Coron. From hence the tourist may extend his walk to the singular E. Perp. ch. of *Llangwyfan*. It is situated on a small island (which the sea is fast demolishing); connected with the mainland merely by a narrow causeway, which is so frequently flooded as to render the regular performance of service impossible. In former times "the service was adapted to the state of the tide; and when the wind blows briskly in the same direction the tide will set in earlier than expected, causing an indecorous breaking up of the devotions of the congregation."

[2 m. from Aberffraw and $\frac{3}{4}$ m. 1. of Bodorgan Stat. is the Early Perp. ch. of *Llangadwaladr*, consisting of nave and chancel with N. and S. chapels attached, the latter erected in 1660. On the lintel of the S. doorway of the nave is an incised stone of the 7th cent., which has been thus deciphered: "Catamanus Rex Sapientissimus opinatissimus omnium regum." It boasts a peculiarly beautiful stained-glass window, of 3 lights, containing the following subjects:—In the centre the Crucifixion, and a figure in royal robes, supposed to be King David. In the N. light the Virgin Mary. In the lower compartment Llewelyn and his wife. In the S. light St. John; and below is Meyrick ap Llewelyn and his wife. 1 m. rt. is *Bodorgan*, the seat of Sir Geo. Gervis Meyrick, Bt., which at one time

was celebrated for possessing the finest gardens in Wales. Nearer the sea is *Bodowen*, a former mansion of the Owen family. From this the traveller must to a certain degree retrace his steps to the head of the estuary, unless, indeed, he fords the river (feasible at low water) to *Newborough*, another wretched decayed village, which, like Aberffraw, boasted a royal residence. It, however, flourished when Aberffraw was virtually extinct, as it was made a borough by Edward I., and sent a member to parliament as late as Henry VIII. A curious trade is kept up here, that of manufacturing mats, nets, and ropes from the seaweed grass (*Amphiphila arenaria*), the produce being taken to Caernarvon market. The botanist will find many uncommon maritime plants growing on the sandy shores in this neighbourhood, such as *Ruppia maritima*, *Silene maritima*, *Arenaria tenuifolia* and *A. peploides*, *Crambe maritima*, *Erigeron acris*, *Limbarda tricuspidis*, and *Anthyllis Dillenii*.

The *Church* is Dec., consisting of nave and choir, forming a single aisle. It has a good font of 12th cent., and a good E. window. At the extremity of *Newborough Warren* is the island of *Llanddwyn*. But little is left of the *Abbey*, which, when intact, was a cruciform ch. 70 ft. long, of late Perp. style. There is only the E. end and part of the side walls of the choir remaining. "Almost the whole of the island has been overwhelmed with a mass of sand, insomuch as the violent winds have blown from the opposite coast of Arvonian sand raised up by the force of tempests, and thrown upon this shore."—*Rowlands*. Notwithstanding the isolation of this spot, it was notorious for the intrigues that were carried on by the adherents of the Earl of Richmond against Richard, King of England, in which Dean Kyffin figures conspicuously.

In the ch. of *Llanvair-y-Cwm-*

mwd, 1½ m. from Newborough, is a font of the 12th cent., ornamented with misshapen heads. Against the N. wall is an elaborate cross-fleury coffin-lid. Between this village and the ferry of Talyfoel is *Maes-y-porth*, an ancient seat of the Lloyd family. From Bodorgan to the ferry is about 8 m.]

[3 m. rt. of Bodorgan stat. is *Henblas*, which belonged to the Lloyds, one of whom was Dr. Lloyd, Bishop of St. Asaph, one of the 7 committed to the Tower by James II. Near *Henblas* are the remains of the largest *Dolmen*, or cromlech, in Wales. In *Cerrigceimwen* Ch. (restored in 1860) is an interesting circular font of the 12th cent., with 6 sculptured compartments, also a sculptured tombstone over the door.]

75 m. *Ty-Croes* Stat. On rt. are *Llyn Badrig* and the little ch. of *Tal-y-Llyn*; on the coast, l., are a cromlech and tumulus. Passing l. the little E. *Perp.* ch. of *Llanfair-yn-Neubwll*, the rly. rejoins the Holyhead road at

81 m. *Valley* Stat. *Inn* [the nearest point from which to make an excursion round the western coast of Anglesey, which contains an unusual number of cromlechs, camps, and erect stones. The scenery, too, in many parts is bold and fine, though from want of any accommodation this portion of the county is frequented by few.]

Shortly after quitting the Valley Stat. an arm of the sea is crossed by the *Stanley Embankment*, ¾ m. long, upon which the high road is carried also. A tremendous current rushes through the arches at the turn of the tide. On rt. is *Penrhos*, the seat of the late Hon. W. O. Stanley, M.P., situated in almost the only woods that Holyhead Island can boast.

84½ m. **Holyhead Terminus.**
(Inns: N. Western Railway Hotel,

a large building, at the Harbour, close to the arrival and departure platforms; Royal Hotel, in the town.) This poor-looking dull town, tacked on to a large Rly. Stat. and a commodious Harbour (in Welsh, *Caergybi*), situated on an island forming the W. extremity of Anglesey, owes its importance to its being the point in Britain nearest to Ireland, and therefore the chief packet station between the two countries. The traffic of passengers has now increased to 60,000 or 80,000 per annum. Its population of 8680 depend chiefly on the vast harbour, the rly. and station and works, the cattle trade, shipping, &c.

The L. & N. W. Rly. Co., aroused by the vast augmentation of passenger traffic, sometime about 1873 determined to abandon the old Harbour and pier, upon which Government had expended 1,500,000*l.* sterling, and to establish a harbour and quays for their own use. These were completed and opened June, 1880.

These works have been constructed on a scale which not only meets present requirements, but leaves a wide margin for the further development of the Anglo-Irish traffic. The old shallow harbour basin, only one side of which formerly was scooped out for the reception of steamers, has been banked in on both sides by a fine quay wall, and excavated to a depth sufficient for navigation at all states of the tide. Roughly speaking, it forms a triangle, the apex of which lies in the direction of the railway, and a bifurcation of the line enables the trains to run on both quays, setting down passengers on the western side and taking them up on the eastern—that is to say, the arriving steamers transfer their passengers to the departing Trains on the Eastern quay, while the arriving trains transfer their passengers to the departing steamers on the W. quay.”—*Times*.

All confusion is thus avoided, the passengers have these two sides of the harbour at its extreme end all to themselves, and their comfort will be promoted by both railway platforms being covered in. The harbour is 2000 ft. long and 600 ft. wide, with a water area of 24 acres.

The *Steam Packets* employed are among the finest vessels afloat, steel built, of 1400 tons, capable of doing 16 to 18 knots an hour. They start and arrive 6 times in the 24 hours, making the passage from Holyhead to Dublin (Kingstown and N. Wall), 64 m. in 4 hours.

A *Graving Dock* has been built expressly for these vessels, whose bottoms and sides need constant scraping to clean off the rapid growth of sea-weed, which, if allowed to remain, would retard their speed 20 minutes in one passage.

At the mouth of the harbour and connected with the mainland by an iron bridge is *Ynys Halen*, or the "Salt Island," from which a *Pier*, 1000 ft. long, begun by Rennie and Telford, runs E., faced seawards by massive embankments which protect the harbour from N.W. gales. At the entrance of the pier is a *marble arch* to commemorate the landing of George IV. in 1821, and at the end a lighthouse. On the opposite rocky side of the estuary is an *Obelisk* to the memory of Captain Skinner.

The *Church of St. Cybi*, chiefly of the 15th or 16th cent., is an embattled cruciform structure, consisting of a chancel, nave, isles, and transept, with a square tower, surmounted by a low, flat kind of spire. The present edifice, exclusive of the chancel, appears to have been begun about A.D. 1327–1377, and completed temp. Henry VII. It was restored under Sir Gilbert Scott at a cost of 6000*l.*, of which 4000*l.* were the gift of the late Hon. W. O. Stanley.

There are remains of 3 chapels in [N. Wales.]

the parish of Holyhead; namely, *Capel Lochwyd*, *Capel y Towyn*, and *Capel Gwyngeuau*. The ground around *Capel y Towyn*, which stands on a mound of sand 30 ft. high, at the edge of the sea, contains many graves singularly arranged with the feet pointing to the centre. The sea has laid numbers bare. The walls of the churchyard on 3 sides are thought to be Roman.

1½ m. from the town is the *Harbour of Refuge*, a national work, begun 1845, and opened by the Prince of Wales 1873, 7860 ft. long, and an E. *Breakwater* 2000 ft. long; with a packet pier of 1500 ft. the two forming a half moon and sheltering a roadstead of above 300 acres of deep water. The breakwater is terminated by a head, on which is erected a lighthouse; the foundation is a great rubble mound of stone 400 ft. wide at base, above which is built a solid central wall 38 ft. 9 in. high, surmounted by a promenade and parapet on the sea side. On the harbour side, at a lower level, 27 ft. above low water, runs a quay 40 ft. wide, formed by an inner wall. The head of the breakwater, is a massive structure of ashlar masonry, 150 ft. long and 50 ft. wide. The engineers employed upon it were Mr. J. M. Rendle, and at his death Sir John Hawkshaw. It is believed to have cost at least 1,500,000*l.*

A visit should be paid to the Quarries in the *Holyhead Mountain*, whence the blocks of stone were conveyed by rail to the pier. Hence a rough mountain-path, passing a small granite block to the memory of Captain Hutchinson, R.E., leads up to the Signal-station of the *Holyhead Telegraph*; N.E. of which are seen the *Skerries Island*, called in Welsh, *Ynys Moelrhoniaid* (Seals Island). Just underneath the signal-station are the *Ynys Arw*, or *North Stacks*, which are hollowed into successive caverns

by the action of the sea, the largest being called the Parliament House, from the noise made on entering by the sea-birds, which dwell here in countless numbers; it is only accessible by boats in very calm weather, and at half ebb-tide. This wonderful cavern has been hollowed out of the contorted strata of schist-rock by the force of the waves. Grand receding arches, of various shapes, supported by pillars of rock, exhibit a striking and attractive scene. The promontory consists of lofty cliffs, of various heights, abounding with huge caverns, that afford shelter for innumerable birds, such as pigeons, gulls, razorbills, sea-ravens, guillemots, cormorants, and herons. On the loftiest crag lurks the peregrine falcon.

From the signal-station a short steep climb leads to the summit of the Holyhead Mountain, or *Pen Caer Gybi*, 709 ft. (2 m. from the town), where are traces of fortifications, and a rude circular tower, supposed to have been a pharos or watch-tower, from which tower, very likely, the mountain generally is called in Anglesey, *Mynydd Twr*.

Excursion.—The most interesting one, on account of the grandeur of the sea-cliff scenery, is to the *South Stack*, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the town, on the S.E. side of "the mountain." Follow the high road about 2 m., then turn rt., taking the telegraph posts as a guide until you come to the edge of the precipice, from which is seen the South Stack Lighthouse, standing on a rocky islet, whose cliffs of slate are wonderfully twisted. A zigzag path carried down the face of the cliff by 383 stairs, leads to a chain bridge which crosses the raging waves. It is a scene of great grandeur. The lighthouse stands 212 ft. above high-water. Many caves have been worn in the rock by the waves, and give shelter

to sea-birds. There is a passage between the rock and the main, but so narrow that unless the water is perfectly smooth an experienced navigator might hesitate to attempt it, even in a boat; and yet through this channel, flanked and fringed as it is with bristling rocks, a large cutter, one of the post-office packets conveying the mail from Dublin to the Head, passed in a heavy sea *circa* 1818.

A remarkable feature in these rocks is the innumerable quantities of sea-birds—gulls, guillemots, razor-bills, cormorants, and even peregrine falcons—which breed here without fear or restraint, as they are not allowed to be shot, on account of the services that they render to vessels in foggy weather by surrounding them with loud cries immediately a gun is fired. If it is early in the season, it is a very singular sight to look over the sides of the Stairs and watch the long rows of young birds, unable to fly, perched on the narrow ledges. As the eye gets accustomed to the rock, you can see thousands of fledglings at different levels, like little white specks, which but for their movements might be taken for stains on the rock. They are said to retain their position on these ledges by means of a gummy secretion. As regards the migration of the gulls, "it is positively asserted by the light-keepers, as an extraordinary fact, that they will return to the S. Stack during the same night on or about the 10th of February, and retire, with the exception of those that, having been robbed on the main, had resorted to the island to renew their labours of incubation, about the night of the 12th of August. The keepers state that in the middle of the former night they are warned of their arrival by a great noise, as it were a mutual greeting and cheering, adding that they look to their return as that of so many old acquaintances after a

long absence, announcing the winter to be over and spring approaching.”

—*Bp. Stanley.*

ROUTE 8.

BANGOR, BY MENAI BRIDGE, TO BEAUMARIS, PENMON, AND AMLWCH, THE EAST COAST OF ANGLESEY.

Omnibus plies over the Suspension bridge (fare 2s.); distance, 7 m. The Bangor and Holyhead Rly. (Rte. 7), after traversing the Tubular Bridge, has a stat. at Llanfair.

Beaumaris may also be reached from Bangor by Garth Ferry, $\frac{3}{4}$ m. across by boat (fare 2d.), which lands you 2 m. from Beaumaris.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ m. *Llanfair Stat.*, on the Anglesey side of the Straits (Rte. 7).

A terraced road here turns rt., and though at first shut in by trees and high walls of numerous villas, at length emerges upon the open sea-shore and commands lovely views of the Carneddws and Glydir mountains of Penmaenmawr, Great and Little Orme's Head, and Puffin Island.

$4\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Beaumaris** (*Inns*: *Williams-Bulkeley Arms, facing the sea, very good, first-class, but expensive; Sportsman). Beaumaris, county town of Anglesey, 2240 Inhab., returned 1 M.P. jointly with Amlwch, Holyhead and Llangefni, from 1832. It seems to

have had no existence until the erection of the castle by Edward I., who intended the town to be a commercial emporium for this part of Wales. For a long time it answered the purpose, and was the residence of a large number of well-to-do merchants. Its first charter dates from 1283; but its provisions were altered and enlarged by Elizabeth. Though commerce has long forsaken it, Beaumaris has enjoyed and still enjoys a steady and respectable watering-place reputation. Many families are annually attracted hither by the bracing air, the glorious scenery, and the economy of housekeeping; and with such a prospect of sea, mountains, and shipping always before him, the visitor will run less risk of ennui than in most other watering-places; and rides and walks around are both numerous and interesting. The town is clean and well built, and has a handsome terrace overlooking the *Green*, a large open space of green sward close to the *Pier*. The prospect from hence embraces the promontory of the Orme's Head, the front of Penmaenmawr, Aber, Bangor, and Penrhyn Castle, with the Caernarvonshire mountains (except Snowdon) in the distance.

At the N. end of the town, close to the sea, stands the *Castle*, a magnificent Edwardian ruin, built 1293, in the low situation of the “Beau Marais” (from which the place is named), and in that respect offering a great contrast to the bold sites of Conway or Caernarvon. It was placed so as to command a ready access to the sea, with which it is connected by a short canal. In shape it is a square enclosed within a regular octagon, both lines of wall being defended at intervals by huge drum and other towers. The entrance between 2 of these, deeply machicolated, under a pointed arch provided with portcullis, makes 2 abrupt turns, so as to expose an enemy to a

cross fire from both walls before he could reach the inner court. Here, in front, raised upon another gatehouse on the N. wall are the Grand Hall, with 5 large windows, and other State apartments. On the rt. side of the court is the *Chapel*, an elegant apsidal structure, Early pointed, with arcade running around it. A great portion of the circuit is traversed by galleries in the thickness of the wall. Within the daintily kept area is now a racket-court.

Close to the outer entrance, and running towards the sea, is a narrow wall, called by Mr. G. Clark "a spur work,"* formerly carried over the moat by an arch. This was called the Gunner's Wall, and was intended to overlook and protect the entrance of supplies, &c.

Considering the size and strength of the fortress, it is barren in historical events. In 1646 it was held for the king by Col. Sir Richard Bulkeley, until forced to surrender on honourable terms to Gen. Mytton. Deeds of the time of Edward III. show that the land on which the castle stands belonged to certain families in Anglesey, who gave it in exchange for property in other places.

The *Church* of *St. Mary* was built at the close of the 13th cent. (with the exception of the chancel, which is of the 16th), and has a nave with N. and S. aisles, chancel, and tower at the W. end, of which the upper part at least is modern. The piers of the nave arches are octagonal, and over them are small circular quatrefoil lights doing duty as clerestory windows. The roof of the nave is not the original roof, but one of the 15th century. Observe the heads on the carved woodwork and sedilia, which

all differ from one another, and are of greater antiquity than the present chancel, having perhaps been removed hither from some religious house at the suppression of the monasteries. On the Miserere seats are figures with rustic dress, and some with implements of the period. The monuments are good: one of white marble, by Ternouth, in the middle of the chancel, to the wife of Sir R. B. Williams Bulkeley, daughter of Lord Dinorben; one by Westmacott, to the Baron Bulkeley; a monumental stone to Sir Henry Sidney, Sir Philip's father, at the end of the chancel; an alabaster altar-tomb in the vestry, of the date of the 15th cent., on which are the recumbent figures of a knight and lady, of the date of Henry VI.

There is also a mural monument on the S. side of the chancel in memory of 5 knights who were connected with the Irish government in the 16th cent., and a good brass of the time of Henry VIII. to a member of the Bulkeley family.

Baron Hill, the beautiful seat of Sir R. M. Williams Bulkeley, Bart., who is constable of Beaumaris Castle, is situated on a wooded hill overlooking the town, and surrounded by a park—open to the public. The charming grounds are closed to visitors, owing to abuse of the privilege by them in many instances. They occupy a range of terraces commanding lovely views, and are planted with choice pine-trees. Here is preserved the stone coffin of Joan, wife of Prince Llewelyn, daughter of K. John, who was buried at Llanfaes Priory. The present mansion is from designs by Wyatt in lieu of the former one erected in 1618 by Sir R. Bulkeley.

Omnibus daily to Menai Bridge (4½ m.) and Bangor.

Steamers daily in summer to Llandudno, Liverpool, Caernarvon.

* Consult for this and other Welsh castles 'Mediæval Military Architecture of England,' by George Clark. 2 vols. 8vo. 1884; an admirable work.

Excursions.—To Bangor, by Garth Ferry, 4 m., by road, 7; to Tubular Bridge and Llanfair Ch., 6; to the Anglesey Columns, Plas Newydd, and the Cromlech; to Penmon Priory, 4½; Puffin Island, 5½ m.

§ a. To *Penmon Priory, Puffin Island, and Redwharf Bay*, 12 to 13 m.

To *Penmon*, 4½ m., the road skirts the sea-side for a greater part of the way; 1 m. l. the *Friars*, a house belonging to Sir R. Williams Bulkeley. Near it stood *Llanfaes Priory*, a religious house of some importance, founded by Llewelyn previous to the building of Beaumaris. What appears to have been the conventual building is now used as a barn, which displays some lancet windows of the 13th cent. The *Church*, which has a broach spire, was rebuilt in the Dec. style in 1845, replacing one of the 14th cent. Inside are armorial bearings of the Whyte family, the former owners of the estate.

The Hamptons of *Henllys*, "the old palace," have built a modern handsome house. Here are preserved many objects of antiquity, including a bedstead that formerly belonged to Owen Tudor.

3 m. l. *Trosyr Afon* (R. Williams, Esq.); and on the summit of a densely overgrown bank opposite is *Castle Lleiniog*, or *Castell Aberlleinog* (Capt. Mitchell), a square fort with a circular tower at each corner, founded by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, and Hugh, Earl of Shrewsbury, in 1098, when they invaded Anglesey and overran the country. A fosse surrounds the whole, and a hollow way is carried to the shore, at extremity of which is a large mound of earth to cover the landing.

From hence a rather bad road runs close to the water's edge, and passes the mountain limestone quarries which furnished the stone for the Britannia Bridge, to

4½ m. *Penmon Priory*. By following the coast the pedestrian will cut off a mile. Penmon, for the beauty of its situation and its architectural features, is a very interesting spot. A religious establishment was founded here (Penmon signifies the head of Mona) as early as the 6th cent. by Einion Frenhin, who placed over it his brother Seiriol, a religious recluse, after whom Ynys Seiriol or Puffin Island was named. The ecclesiastics of this establishment were of the order of St. Augustine. The conventual ch., which had fallen into great neglect, and part used as a sheepfold, was restored 1854 in the most simple and judicious manner. It is a cruciform ch., as the missing N. transept has been rebuilt. The general style is Norm., with the exception of the chancel, which is of the early part of the 15th cent. Notice the Norm. arcades in the transept, also the deeply recessed windows of the nave, and beautifully sculptured arch with Norm. moulding. At rt. angles to the ch. is a farm-house, formerly the prior's residence, to which the ruinous buildings of the refectory are attached. On a bank opposite the ch. is the ancient pigeon-house, with a domical roof of the time of Henry VIII. There is a very graceful and peculiar *cross* on the hill above covered with zigzag ornaments. The compartments represent the mockery of our Saviour by the soldiers, who are depicted with the heads of beasts.

Crossing the down on rt. the tourist will descend opposite the *Lighthouse*, erected in 1838. It is approached from the shore by an iron bridge.

He may then visit, in a few minutes by row-boat, *Puffin Island*, otherwise Ynys Seiriol and Priestholm. Probably the first ecclesiastical establishment was on this island, and was removed to Penmon

when it became of more importance. There still exists a rude oblong tower 40 ft. in height, with a low conical roof similar to the one at Penmon, of which it was very likely a counterpart. Mr. Bloxam considers it the earliest Christian structure in the Principality, and of as early a date as A.D. 680. He bases this opinion on its huge unhewn masonry, its rude mouldings, and "the pyramidal stone roof, which is perhaps not only the earliest type we have of a spire, but the earliest existing roof in the kingdom above ground." He claims that it should be preserved as one of our national antiquities. Giraldus Cambrensis mentions a legend, that the island was invariably overrun with mice whenever the monks began to disagree. Even now it is said to be unduly infested with the large Norwegian rat, which, together with puffins, rabbits innumerable, and the signal-station keeper, form the only population. The Puffin-auk or *Alca Arctica* also comes hither to breed in spring and summer, in great numbers.

The Mountain limestone of which Puffin Island consists is an outlier connecting that of Anglesey and Orme's Head.

On the dangerous shoals, Dutchman's Bank, which lies nearly due S., the 'Rothesay Castle' was wrecked Aug. 17, 1831, when upwards of 100 persons lost their lives. It was in consequence of this sad event that the Lighthouse was erected.

The tourist who can afford the time may very agreeably extend his wanderings to the E. side of *Redwharf Bay*, and return inland to Beaumaris.

The road skirts an elevated range of hill, passing the villages of *Llargoed* and *Llanfihangel* to *Bwrdd Arthur*, or Arthur's Round Table (also called *Dinas Sylwy*), the largest camp in Anglesey. It shelves N. towards the sea, and is

nearly surrounded by a deep fosse between 2 walls of stones placed edgewise. As is usually the case, the internal area contains traces of dwellings. There is a fine view from the summit both coastwards and inland, and a good general notion of Anglesey may be obtained from thence.

The very small ch. of *Llanfihangel*, which contains a movable pulpit, lies just underneath the E. slope. The road now descends the hill to *Llanddona*, beautifully situated, overhanging the bay of *Redwharf*, or, as it is locally called, *Traeth Coch*. In the Early Perp. ch. of *Llaniestyn*, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. S., is a font of the 12th cent., and a slab of the 14th supposed to commemorate St. Iestyn, the tutelar saint. The inscription is almost defaced. From *Llaniestyn* the road runs over high ground to *Beaumaris*, which it enters from behind the woods of Baron Hill, leaving on rt. the small lake of *Bodgolched*.

§ b. The eastern coast of Anglesey will be best visited in an excursion from *Beaumaris* to *Amlwch*, 17 or 18 m. 1 m. rt. is the *Union House*; $2\frac{1}{2}$ a road on l. leads to *Llandegfan*, while a second road continues to *Llansadwrn*. $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. at Trevor is a cromlech on l. of the road, and on rt. at different intervals are meinihirion or erect stones. Further on we arrive at *Mynydd Llwydiarth*, a rugged chain of hills skirting the N. promontory as far as Penmon. On the S. slope is the small Llyn of the same name.

5 m. *Pentraeth* (Inn: Panton Arms), a pretty village on the banks of a rivulet which empties itself, 1 m. N., into Redwharf Bay. *Plas Gwyn* was for many years the residence of the Panton family, through whom it descended to Lord Vivian. The shores of Redwharf Bay are said to furnish some very rare varieties of shells. The cliffs are quarried for limestone,

which is shipped at *Porth Llongddu*, where is a small Inn.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ m. l. of Pentraeth is *Llandyfnan*. The ch., rebuilt in 1847, contains over the S. door a sculpture of the Crucifixion. A large maenhir stands in the adjoining field.

$8\frac{1}{2}$ m. rt. is *Llanfair-mathafarn-eithaf*, the birthplace of Goronwy Owen, a celebrated Wesh poet. In the ch.-yard is a mutilated *Cross*.

$9\frac{1}{2}$ m. l. *Llaneugrad*, in which parish are an ancient manor-house and park, with an Elizabethan pigeon-house. The fine modern mansion here called *Parciau* is the residence of Wm. Williams, Esq. $10\frac{1}{2}$ m. rt. is the rude little ch. of *Llanallgo*, said to have been originally built in the 7th cent. The neighbouring ch. of *Penrhos Llugwy* has in its ch.-yard a rude inscribed stone said by some to commemorate St. Macutus of the Roman Calendar, and by others one of a tribe of Irish invaders, named collectively Decced or Degaid. The ch.-yard is the receptacle of the corpses of the ill-fated passengers of the 'Royal Charter' steam clipper, which was wrecked on the morning of 26th Oct., 1859. The ship struck on the sharp rocks of Moelfre about 3 A.M., and finally broke up between 8 and 9, when 465 persons lost their lives. In these 2 graveyards about 220 bodies were buried.

There is a fine cromlech near Moelfre placed upon 7 supports.

At 13 m. the river *Dulas* is crossed, the mountain limestone rocks giving place to those of the *Llandeilo* formation. The igneous rocks of the *Parys* Mountain are a very conspicuous feature in the landscape. (Rte. 9.)

14 m. (rt. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is *Llysdufas*, the seat of Sir Arundell and Lady Neave.

The grounds of this mansion slope down to the water's edge and command magnificent sea-views.

The restored ch. of *Llanwenllyfo* contains an elaborate brass of the 17th cent.

15 m. at *Pensarn* the road crosses the high ground between the *Parys* and *Llanellian* Mountains, from whence it descends to

17 m. *Amlwch* (Rte. 9).

ROUTE 9.

GAERWEN JUNCTION TO AMLWCH, BY ANGLESEY CENTRAL RAILWAY.

18 m. Leaving the main line at Gaerwen Junct. (Rte. 7), the Anglesey Central Rly. traverses the island pretty nearly in its centre.

2 m. the *Holland Arms* Stat., close to which is the *Holland Arms*, a comfortable roadside inn; $\frac{1}{2}$ m. l. is *Plas Berv*, and 1 m. rt. the old Perp. ch. of *Llanfihangel Ysgeifiog*. The rly. now crosses the wide and desolate marsh known as the *Malldraeth Marsh*, which, however, has been to a certain extent drained by the embankment of the tidal river running from *Llangefni* to the sea at *Malldraeth Bay*. The traveller will perceive from the few melancholy-looking collieries that a small strip of coal-measures occupies the E. side of this depression as far as the S. coast.

3 m. l. is the ch. of *Llangristiolus*, in which parish is the *Henblas Cromlech*, now fallen; the upright stones which supported it are 10 ft. high. There is another with a menhir near Dinas, to the W. of Henblas, close to which the road to Amlwch branches off to the rt., and $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. the little town of

Llangefni (Stat.), with a population of about 1800 (*Inn*: Bull's Head). Its pleasant and central situation in the fertile vale of Cefni (which is here crossed by 2 bridges of 2 arches each) has contributed to raise Llangefni from a very small hamlet, which it was within the last century, to a busy little market-town. The ch. contains nothing remarkable except a stone inscribed CVLIDORI IACIT SECUNDO. 1 m. from Llangefni is the old entrenched mansion of *Tregarnedd*, of the time of Henry VII., now a farm-house, on the site of the residence of Ednyfed Vychan, the friend and minister of Llewelyn the Great in the 13th cent. From him was descended Owen Tudor in a direct line. The name of Tregarnedd was doubtless derived from an immense carnedd or heap of stones for sepulchral purposes in an adjacent field.

Distances.—Gaerwen, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Llanerchymedd, 7; Penmynydd, 4.

The rly. now proceeds along the banks of the Cefni through an uninteresting country to

7 m. *Llangwyllog* Stat.

11 m. *Llanerchymedd* Stat. (*Inn*: Bull's Head).

The Church has been restored in good taste; its principal feature is the tower, which has a deep military-looking parapet, similar to those of the Pembrokeshire churches. The bell-gable is curiously formed in the E. parapet. The town itself is famous for nothing but its cattle

fares, and formerly for Welsh snuff in humble imitation of Lundyfoot. [3 m. E. is the little Perp. single-aisled ch. of *Llanfihangel Tre'r Beirdd*. There is an early cross in the ch.-yd. From hence it is from 4 to 5 m. to Moelfre Bay.]

12 m. rt. *Llwydiarth*, the beautifully wooded demesne of the Lloyd family. In the grounds is a famous Maen Chwyf or rocking-stone, called locally *Arthur's Quoit*.

$14\frac{1}{2}$ m. Rhosgoch Stat. To the l. rises the rugged eminence of *Parys Mountain*, the highest hill in Anglesey, riddled and quarried by the works of the *Copper Mines*, once the most productive in Britain. They are nearly exhausted, but copper is still obtained by drawing off the water saturated with copper from the mountain, and evaporating it and smelting the mud which remains. The process is worth seeing. The mine is said to be named from Robert Parys, Chamberlain of N. Wales in the reign of Henry IV. From the traces of old workings, and the fact that a cake of copper weighing 29 lb. 8 oz. was discovered in the neighbourhood marked with a Roman stamp, it is probable that a search for minerals had been systematically entered into by that nation. The modern history of these mines, however, does not commence until 1762, when Sir Nicholas Bayley, grandfather of the 1st Marquis of Anglesey, began to work them in conjunction with the Rev. E. Hughes, father of the first Lord Dinorben. This mine, situated in a volcanic rock, which intrudes into the Caradoc Strata, produced, in the early part of the 19th century, 20,000 tons of copper per annum.

From Parys a descent of $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. brings the tourist to

$17\frac{1}{2}$ m. *Amlwch Terminus* (Rte. 8).

(*Inns*: Dinorben Arms; Castle; better quarters at Bull Bay), a dirty though busy seaport of 2664 Inhab., dependent in some way for support on the copper-works. For the accommodation of the vessels engaged in exporting the copper, a harbour has been excavated in the solid rock, which will receive vessels of 600 tons burden. For their protection a breakwater was afterwards added. A good portion of the ore is smelted here, causing the usual amount of unpleasant smoke and dirt always to be found in the vicinity of copper-works. There is a modern ch., built by the Parys Company, at an expense of 4000*l.*; also a very excellent library and reading-room.

Distances.—Holyhead, 20 m.; Llanerchymedd, 6½; Menai Bridge, 18; Beaumaris, 17 (through Llanallgo); Llangefni, 13; Gaerwen, 17.

A steamer occasionally calls from Liverpool and Holyhead.

A pleasant little watering-place has been set on foot at *Bull Bay*, 1 m. distant. A good *Hotel* and bathing establishment have been erected, and the pure air and fine sands attract visitors.

[An excursion may be made from Amlwch to the village of *Llaneilian*, 2 m. to the E. Adjoining the ch. by a passage from the chancel, is a small chapel, called the “*Myvyr*,” or place of meditation, in which is an old wooden altar of the 15th cent. fixed against the wall. “During the wake all the people enter this box: and should they get in and out with ease, having turned round in it 3 times, they believe that they will live to the end of the year at least; but if their dimensions be too large they give themselves up as lost.”—*Nicholson*.

The *Well of Eilian*, formerly much visited by pilgrims, is now nearly dried up. About ¾ m. from the village

is *Point Ælianus*, commonly called *Point Lynas*, upon which are a light-house and a signal-station, which, previous to the electric telegraph, communicated by semaphore with Holyhead and Puffin Island. From *Llaneilian* the tourist may proceed to *Llanwenllwyfo* (3 m.), and so on to *Beaumaris*.]

[Another excursion can be made on the W. to *Llanfechell* (6 to 7 m.), through *Cemaes* (4 m.), the principal inducements being the beautiful coast-views, and an unusual number of early stones and cromlechs. About 1 m. N. of *Cemaes*, where there are a small pier and wharf, is *Llanbadrig* ch., situated on a precipitous cliff overlooking the sea. It is said to have been founded by St. Patrick on his way to Ireland. *Llanfechell* is an important little village, owing to the quarrying in the parish of a peculiarly rich ore of serpentine marble, known as “*verd antique*,” and considered by statuary of high value. *Llanfechell* ch. is remarkable for its apparently defensive character, its rude Norman-like font, its three light east windows, and a coffin slab with a floriated 14th-century cross. Three pillars or *meini-hirion*, and certain tokens or remnants of a so-called cromlech, perhaps account between them for the name of the adjacent farm, which is *Cromlech*. Hence the return to Amlwch, about 4 m., may be made by way of *Bodewryd*.]

ROUTE 10.

CHESTER TO RUTHIN AND DENBIGH.
BY HAWARDEN AND MOLD.

RAIL., 6 trains daily in less than 2 hrs.

For the first 3 m. the Chester and Holyhead Railway is travelled upon, the Mold line diverging to the l. opposite Sealand Mill.

5 m. *Broughton Hall* Stat. On rt., close to the rly., is Broughton Hall, and 2 m. rt. the castle and wooded demesne of Hawarden (Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P.).

On a height, overlooking the surrounding country, the first high ground rising to the W. of the valley of the Dee, stand the little town and castle of *Hawarden*, pronounced Harden (in Domesday Book 'Haordine') (*Inn*: Glynne Arms). In the park, which is varied and picturesque, stands the modern castellated residence, of the last cent., with later additions, of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, containing his very select and extensive *Library*. Near the house, on the edge of a ravine, rise the keep and ruined walls of the *ancient Castle*, of Edwardian age, consisting of a drum keep and a curious outwork called the *Dungeon*, but probably a *Sallyport*, from which the garrison could issue and outflank the besieger, and retire across a deep, walled pit, by a temporary plank bridge. From the summit of the keep is a very fine view of the Vale of the Dee, a still finer view from the terraced garden of the Rectory. The castle was surprised on the night of Palm Sunday, 1282, by the Welsh under David, brother of Prince Llewelyn, who seized in

this bed its owner, the Lord Justiciary de Clifford, and carried him off prisoner, slaughtering many knights who were among the garrison. The castle was sequestered by the Parliament after its capture by their forces under Gen. Mytton, 1645, and was dismantled. It was purchased by Serjeant Glynne (a friend of Cromwell), in whose family it has remained ever since. It was originally the seat of the barons of Mont Alt, whence the name of Mold and the family name Maude, and afterwards of the Stanleys, to whom it belonged for 200 years, until in 1651, the Earl of Derby, being taken by the forces of the Parliament at the Battle of Worcester, was beheaded and the castle confiscated. Visitors are admitted to the park by entrance near the church.

The *Church*, Early Eng., was restored after a fire in 1857 and again in 1878. It contains good memorial windows and a recumbent statue of the late Sir Stephen Glynne, Bt., and a marble reredos of the Last Supper, memorials of Mr. Gladstone's 2 brothers-in-law. It is kept in perfect order.

Aston Hall, in the vicinity of Hawarden, belongs to Mr. Gladstone. *Trueman's Hill*, outside the town, to the W. of the ch., was an early British post.

Distances.—Chester, 7 m.; Northop, 5; Flint, 9½; Queensferry, 2; Mold, 7. Broughton Hall Stat., 1½ m.

The rly. ascends amidst the hills bordering the valley of the Dee. The level country soon begins to disappear, and the increasing gradients of the line show that we are approaching the hill-districts.

8 m. *Hope* Stat.

9 m. *Hope Junct.*

[From this a rly. runs to Connah's Quay and the mining district of Buckley (Rte. 4) to the N., and on the S. to Wrexham, passing

1½ m. *Caergwrle* Stat. on l., the village of *Hope*, formerly a place of some importance, to which Edward the Black Prince granted a charter. In the ch., close to which runs Watt's Dyke, is a monument to Sir John Trevor of Plasteg, Comptroller of the Navy in the time of Elizabeth.

2¾ m. *Bridge End* Stat. Close to this rise a ruined tower and broken walls, the scant remains of *Caergwrle Castle* (the camp of the giant Legion XX). It figures in the Wars of the Roses, but an older fortress once occupied the site. Remains have been brought to light of a hypocaust, inscribed tiles, bricks, all tending to prove that *Caergwrle* was a subsidiary garrison to Chester. A small portion only of the castle remains, a broken tower, fragments of walls, and a ditch, on a well-chosen site—an isolated rock with a precipitous escarpment. Vestiges of a rampart of earth and stones bespeak a fortress originally British, perhaps intended, in conjunction with *Caer Estyn*, to defend the passage into Wales. On the opposite eminence is the British post of *Caer Estyn*, beneath which the *Alyn* flows towards *Gresford* (Rte. 1) through a narrow and romantic ravine. Near the castle is *Bryn Iorkyn*, an old mansion said to have been built from designs by *Inigo Jones*.

3¼ m. *Cefn-y-bedd* Stat.

5¼ m. *Gwersyllt* Stat., close to which is *Gwersyllt Hall*, occupying the site of an ancient house, burnt down in 1738, and noted for being the residence of Col. *Shakerley*, a distinguished royalist commander in the time of Charles I. He is said to have crossed the *Dee* in a tub, that he might make a short cut with a despatch to the king, who lay with his army at *Rowton Heath*. Near

this house is a curious petrifying spring in the bed of the river.

7 m. *Wrexham* (Rte. 1)].

10½ m. *Padeswood* Stat., from whence a branch rly. for minerals, 2½ m. in length, runs to the *Coed Talon Ironworks* on l.

1½ m. l. is *Hartsheath*, once the residence of Col. *Wardle*, who gained such notoriety in the inquiry that was held on the conduct of the Duke of York and Mrs. *Clarke*. On the opposite bank of the *Alun* is *Plas Teg*, built also by *Inigo Jones* for Sir John Trevor in 1610.

11½ m. *Llong* Stat. On l. are the beautiful woods and mansion of *Leeswood Hall*. The number of collieries that now come into view prove to the visitor that he has arrived at the very heart of the coal district of *Flintshire*, of which

13 m. *Mold* Stat. (*Inn*: Black Lion, C. good) is the capital (Pop. 5055). "It has a rich and beautiful Perp. Church, with remarkably high and elegant piers and arches, and enriched spandrels."—*Rickman*. It consists of a nave of 7 bays, with aisles; a panelled wood roof. It was restored by *Gilbert Scott*, who added a chancel as memorial to the Rev. *Hope Wynne Eyton*. The stained glass is modern and varied. That in the chancel is in memory of the late Dean *Clough*, Rev. *Hope Wynne Eyton*, and *F. Charles Philips, Esq.* A monumental statue to Mr. *Robert Davies of Llanerch*, with a bombastic inscription, in the corner of the S. aisle utterly obscures some carving of an arch or window. *Richard Wilson*, the landscape painter, the son of a Welsh clergyman, is buried in the ch.-yd. His tomb is near the N. door (d. 1782).

At the top of the town, near the Ch., is an eminence called the *Bailey Hill*, but in old records *Mons Altus*, *Moaldes*, or *Mouhault*, whence by

further corruption comes the name of Mold; on the summit once stood a strong fortress, taken by storm by Owain Gwynedd in 1144, and again in 1322 by Sir Gruffydd Llwyd, who had risen in arms against the English. It commands a good view.

1 m. to the W. is a spot called *Maes-Garmon*, or the field of Germanus, the scene of another battle in the 5th cent., when the Britons under Germanus, or Garmon, Bp. of Auxerre (from whom are named Llanarmon in Denbighshire, and St. Harmon's in Radnorshire), gained the "victoria Alleluatica" against the Saxons and Picts. "On the appearance of the enemy, the Christian band, having been previously instructed by their leader, dashed forward with a loud shout of Alleluia, which so frightened the Pagans, that they fled and were put to the rout with great slaughter." According to Bede and Fuller, the newly-baptized Christian army (recess de lavaero exercitus) drove in confusion the panic-stricken foe through the river Alun, "lately the Christians' font, now the pagans' grave." A stone column was erected here in 1736 to commemorate the event.

1½ m. S. of the town is the residence of *Tower*, the main feature of which, as its name applies, is a tall machicolated and embattled Peel tower of the early part of the 15th cent., on one side of which is a dwelling-house of the time of Queen Anne. In the interior a circular turret staircase at the S.E. angle leads to the roof, and it has 3 doors within corresponding to the different stories. The battlements have loopholes of equal-armed crosses. This tower was noted for a tragical occurrence in 1465, when Reinalt ap Gryffydd ap Bleddyn hung Robert Byrne, the Mayor of Chester, from a staple in the wall, completing his crimes by fastening the men who had been sent to seize him inside the

building, which he then set on fire. In Pennant's time this residence belonged to the Wynnes, from whom it descended to the Wynne Eyttons.

Distances.—Northop, 3 m.; Ruthin, 10; Caerwys, 10½; Denbigh, 17; Flint, 7; Cilcain, 4.

Mold to Denbigh, 16 m.

The rly. from Mold to Denbigh takes a winding course among the hills, ascending for about 3 m. the picturesque valley of the Alun, bordered by limestone cliffs, reminding one of the Jura on a small scale.

Rhydymwyn Stat. (Inn: Antelope), a modern parochial district and Ch. From this the ascent may be made of *Moel Fammau*, the highest of the Clwydian Hills (5 m.), passing the village of Cilcain, whose Ch. has a fine Perp. roof. The summit, 1845 ft. high, crowned by the Jubilee Column erected in honour of George III. completing the 50th year of his reign, was partly blown down by a storm, 1862. The site commands such a view as is rarely obtained, on account of the comparative isolation of the range, and the immense extent of low ground which it overlooks. In clear weather it embraces from Cader Idris and Snowdon to Black Comb in Cumberland on the N., and southward as far as the Wrekin, while the whole length of the beautiful vale of Clwyd is spread like a map at one's feet.

Moel Fammau consists of Wenlock strata.

[1 m. rt. a road leads to Northop, 3 m., passing the demesne of *Soughton* (J. S. Bankes, Esq.). The house is of curious architecture, altered on the model of a Portuguese convent by a former proprietor, a great traveller.]

4 m. rt. is the rich mining district of *Halkin Mountain*, at the S. end of which is Moel-y-gaer Camp (Rte. 4). At *Hesp Alun*, a little to the S., the

Alun, which makes a sudden turn upon itself, has an underground course for some distance, thus prettily alluded to by Drayton:—

“Then Alen makes approache—who, earnest to be there,
For haste twice under earth her crystal
heade doth runne.”

$4\frac{1}{2}$ m. l. *Ffynnon Leinir*, the flowing well, was remarkable in Camden's time for possessing a regular ebb and flow. The valley of the Churler, through which the railroad runs to Nannerch, is singularly romantic.

6 m. l. *Penbedw Hall* contains in the grounds a circle and a tumulus, the former 100 yds. in circumference, and originally composed of 11 stones, of which five are still *in situ*.

The Clwydian range of hills, which have bounded the horizon to the W., now rise up very steeply to the l. The point a little S.W. of Penbedw is *Moel Arthur*, a strong British post, defended by 2 ditches of great depth. This range is a marked feature in the physical geography of N. Wales, and runs nearly due N. and S. from Diserth to Llandegla below Ruthin, without a single break occurring. Advantage was taken of this chain of seven fortified heights in early times by the Ordovices to protect themselves against the incursions of the Romans. On almost every one of the highest points a strongly fortified post was planted. The rly. is carried through a natural gap in the hills into the valley of the river Wheeler.

7 m. *Nannerch* Stat. of the Mold and Denbigh Railway. The parish is partly in Flint and partly in Denbigh, near the source of the river Wheeler, called *Ffynnon Sarah*. The ch. contains a monument to Charlotte, wife of R. Mostyn, Esq., of Penbedw, and grand-daughter of Sir Kenelm Digby. $8\frac{1}{2}$ m. rt. is the little mountain ch. of *Ysceiſiog*.

$9\frac{1}{2}$ m. *Caerwys* Stat. (Pop. 804), a place formerly of importance, and the probable site of a Roman station. This impression is favoured by its name, derived from ‘Caer,’ a camp, and ‘Gwys,’ a summons (h. e. to a place of judicature), by the arrangement of the streets, which cross each other at rt. angles in a similar fashion to that of the Roman station at Caerwent in Monmouthshire. The Church dedicated to St. Michael has two equal and parallel aisles and a solid military tower at the W. end of that to the N. Great cattle-fairs are periodically held here, well worth a visit from any tourist passing through the country. The country between Caerwys and Newmarket is marked by a greater number of *Tumuli* than any part of N. Wales.

Maesmynan, the residence of Llewelyn, the last native prince of Wales, is situated at the entrance of a very romantic dingle.

13 m. *Bodfari* Stat. (*Inn*: Dinorben Arms) is a remarkably pleasant little fishing village overlooking the Clwyd at its junction with the Wheeler or Chwiler. It lies on the Roman road from Deva, or Chester, to Canovium (Caerhûn). Urns, coins, and fragments of weapons have been found at Pont Ruffiths. Above it is *Moel-y-gaer*, another early fortified post. Near Bodfari is *Bryn-bella*, a villa built by Mrs. Piozzi, and *Nantllys* (P. B. Pennant, Esq.).

From Bodfari it is 1 m. to the Dinorben Arms, and the rly. enters the Vale of Clwyd, and crosses it, passing on l. Lleweni (Rte. 11), to reach

4 m. *Denbigh Junct. Stat.*, Rte. 11

Mold to Ruthin by Road.

For the first 2 m. from Mold to Ruthin the country is bleak and barren, like most districts of the

millstone grit formation. Every now and then magnificent views are gained of the Clwydian range, conspicuous in which is the lofty Moel Famau (1845 ft.). See above.

15½ m. a steep hill descends to the valley of the Alun, which winds through a sweetly pretty glen. At the bottom of the hill is an old-fashioned roadside inn bearing the singular sign of the *Loggerheads*, and the inscription "We 3 Loggerheads be." Should the inquiring traveller seek to know why only 2 are visible on the signboard, the landlord will speedily let him into the secret as to who is the 3rd. This sign was painted by Wilson, whose father was rector of the parish, and who lies buried in Mold ch.-yd. From this inn to the summit of Moel Famau it is 3 m. The descent, 1½ m., may be made to village of *Cilcen* or *Cileain* (that is, the retreat on the Cain, a stream close by, 3 m., N. of the inn). Its *Church* contains in its S. aisle the most beautiful carved oak roof in the principality. The hammer-beams are terminated with carved figures of angels. During the restoration of the ch. a mutilated early Norman font was discovered, of unique design.

23 m. *Ruthin* is in Rte. 11. The distance from Ruthin to Wrexham, by *Llandegla* (Rte. 11) and *Minera* (Rte. 1), is 18 m.

ROUTE 11.

CORWEN TO RHYL, BY RUTHIN, DENBIGH, AND ST. ASAPH.—RAIL.

5 trains daily in about 1 hour 25 minutes to Denbigh; 25 minutes thence to Rhyl.

From *Corwen* Junct. (Rte. 3) a line of rail runs down the vale of Clwyd to join the Chester and Holyhead line at Rhyl. The Dee is crossed at Corwen.

2½ m. *Gwyddelwern* Stat.

5 m. *Derwen* Stat. *Derwen* ch.-yd., which lies to the l., contains a good *Cross*, and the ch. a handsome rood-loft of the 15th cent. The rly. quits the vale of Dee and enters that of Clwyd.

7 m. *Nantclwyd* Stat. and *Nantclwyd Hall* (Colonel Naylor Leyland), a grand Jacobean house, enlarged 1876, at a cost of 20,000*l.*; carved staircase.

Near this, road, river, and rly. traverse a narrow gorge in the limestone. There are extensive lime-works near this.

10 m. *Egarth* Stat., at the end of a very picturesque little rocky pass.

2 m. rt. *Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd*, has an old ch. with fragments of a finestained-glass window (subject, the Crucifixion) and an altar-tomb of 14th cent. On l. is the quaint little ch. of *Efenechtyd*, containing a wooden font and a good rood-loft, which is made use of as a singing-gallery. The name implies that there was a monastery here, the old-fashioned knocker on the door illustrates the Parable of the Ten Virgins. In the neighbourhood is *Pool Park*, the beautiful domestic

of Lord Bagot, in front of which are preserved an inscribed stone pillar, and a stone chair locally called the "Queen's Chair."

12 m. *Ruthin Stat.* (*Inns*: Castle, comfortable; Wynnstay Arms), a pleasant, old-fashioned little town of 1130 Inhab., situated on rising ground on the rt. bank of the Clwyd, which runs due N. in a somewhat sluggish stream. Although it is of great antiquity, and contains some old houses, its history is scanty. In 1400 Owain Glyndwr committed a raid, and, it being unfortunately fair-day, created terrible havoc by setting the town on fire.

The *Castle* (Major W. Cornwallis West) is a modern building, like its predecessor, of red sandstone, from which it obtained the name of Castell Coch (Red Castle). The old fortress, of which some ivy-clad walls and towers remain, is said to have been built in Edward I.'s reign, but after sustaining a siege by Gen. Mytton during the Civil War, was dismantled and left to decay. "It consisted of a larger and smaller court, E. and W. of each other, and separated by a dry fosse cut through the red stone rock." Churchyard thus describes it:—

"This castle stands on rocke much like red bricke,
The dykes are cut with tooles through stonie crag,
The towers are hye, the walles are large and thicke,
The worke itself would shake a subject's bagge,
If he were bent to build the like agayne."

In the reign of Edward I., 1282, a grant of the castle and surroundings was made to Reginald de Grey, 1st Lord Grey de Ruthin, to distinguish him from another Welsh Lord Grey.

Admission to view the mansion is given to strangers on entering their names at the gate.

The *Church of St. Peter* was anciently conventual, and was sub-

sequently made collegiate by Lord Grey in 1310, who gave endowments for 7 priests, and erected the building as it stood before the ruin in the 17th centy. of the choir and collegiate portion. The *Parish Ch.* was restored in 1885. Adjoining the ch. are the buildings known as the cloisters, which formerly connected it with the residence of the canons. They now form a dwelling-house for the warden of Ruthin. The most noticeable features in the interior of the Church, which is of 14th cent. date, are the elaborate Perp. oak roof of the N. aisle, which is divided into panels, and ornamented with nearly 500 different devices, legends, and heraldic emblems, and the lantern arches of the tower. The founder is stated to have been buried here, although no tombstone at present exists:—

"A church there is at Wrythen at this day,
Wherein Lord Gray, that once was Earle of Kente,
In tombe of stone, amid the chauncel laye."

A lofty modern spire in the style of the 14th cent. has added much to the external beauty of the Church.

There is a bust of Dean Gabriel Goodman, a native of the town, and a great benefactor. He was Dean of Westminster during the reign of Elizabeth, founded not only Christ's Hospital (Ruthin) but also the Grammar School, which has produced not a few Welsh scholars and antiquaries of note. He was one of the translators of the Authorised Version; 1st of Corinthians having been his work. His nephew, Godfrey Goodman, Bp. of Gloucester, endowed the school with exhibitions.

Underneath the walls of the castle and on the banks of the river is an ancient *Mill* of the reign of Edward I. It contains some lancet windows and a red sandstone cross over the gable.

1 m. rt. is the small mother ch. of *Llanrhudd* (the Ch. of the Red Sandstone), restored by the munifi-

cence of G. Johnson, Esq., of Plas Llanrhudd. It contains an interesting monument to John Thelwall of Bathafarn and Jane his wife (ob. 1585-6) with their ten sons and four daughters kneeling behind them.

Distances.—Mold, 10 m.; Corwen, 12; Denbigh, 8; Cilcain, 7; Wrexham, 18; Llandegla, 8.

[Several very beautiful *Excursions* may be made to the S. of Ruthin into the "wild hills of Yale," and the broken but difficult ranges which intervene between the bend of the Clwyd and the valley of the Dee. Taking the most easterly of the 2 roads (that to Wrexham), the traveller passes on l. 2 m. the little ch. of *Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd* (p. 78), and 3 m. Llanfair Chapel. The road now leaves the Clwyd to the rt., and winds along through a very picturesque ravine to the *Crown Inn* 9 m., though by a shorter road over the hill it is only 8 m. At 7 m. is a large tumulus known as *Tomen-y-Rhodwydd*, said to have been cast up as a foundation for a fortress built by Owain Gwynedd in the 12th cent. On l. is the village of *Llandegla* (Ch. of St. Tecla) near the source of the river Alun, where there is a famous well efficacious in cases of epilepsy—sometimes known as St. Tecla's disease. The cure was performed with many ceremonies. It was necessary that after ablution in the well the patient should offer fourpence, recite the Lord's Prayer, make a second votive offering of a cock, and finally enter the ch., make a pillow of the Bible and a blanket of the communion-cloth, and there sleep till break of day. By these means the disease was believed to have been transferred to the bird. In the neighbourhood is the ancient house of *Plas Bodidris*, an old residence of the Lloyds and Mostyns. 2 m. N. on the banks of the Alun, which rises in the parish of Llan-

degla, is *Gelli Gynan* (J. C. Jones, Esq.).

3 m. N. *Llanarmon in Yale*, the ch. of which, dedicated to the St. Germanus who led the Christians to victory at Mold (p. 76), contains under an arch in the S. wall the recumbent figure of a knight of the 14th cent., completely armed and with a shield on the left arm, inscribed "*Hic jacet Gruffydd ap Llewelyn ap Ynyr*," brought hither from Valle Crucis Abbey. Within a niche of the outer S. wall of the ch. is also the carved effigy of a bishop, 6 ft. 4 in. in length; also a singular brazen chandelier, with a figure of the Virgin in its centre, supposed to have been brought from the same religious house. Close to the ch. is another mound known as *Tomen-y-fardre*, hard by which is a cavern of considerable height and extent. From the Crown Inn the road winds round the base of *Cyrn-y-Brain* (which rises to the height of 1857 ft.) to *Minera* and Wrexham (Rte. 1).

Ruthin to Denbigh.

The rly. to Denbigh follows the l. bank of the Clwyd.

[1½ m. l. *Llanfwrog*.

Starting W. from the *Church*, a double-aisled one, with effective arcades, there is a pleasant and interesting *Walk* by taking the rt.-hand road to (2 m.) *Bont Uchel*, and following the stream 3 m. to Gylliag, through pleasing scenery. In returning, the footpath by the stream may be followed to Rhewl Stat.]

13½ m. *Rhewl Stat.*

1 m. rt. is Llanychan; and under Moel Fenlli and *Moel Fannaw* (see Rte. 10) are the villages of Llanbedr and Llangynhafal, from whence there is a short bridle-road to Cilcain (see Rte. 10). The Clwydian hills bound the view on the rt. for the remainder of the route to St. Asaph and Rhyl, and, although as a whole they lack

diversity, they are a beautiful feature in the landscape.

The rly. now skirts the *Clywedog*, a tributary of the Clwyd, having on l. *Bachymbyd*, the property of Lord Bagot, with three noteworthy chest-nuts (the Three Sisters), the largest 35 ft. in circumference at 6 ft. from the ground, not far from the high road. Tradition says they were planted by the three daughters of Sir W. Salusbury, one of whom married Sir Walter Bagot, of Blithefield, an ancestor of Lord Bagot.

15½ m. *Llanrhaiadr* Stat. The *Church* (restored 1882) is a large building with portions of Perp. and some earlier work. It possesses a good timber roof and a celebrated E. window filled with painted glass, representing the Root of Jesse. The ancient chest in which this glass was found, buried in the ch.-yd., is in one piece, hollowed from the trunk of a tree. The hinges and locks are very curious. There is an amusing monument to Maurice Jones, Esq., in which he is represented in fashionable court dress and peruke, and, according to the epitaph, founds his hope of salvation upon the grounds of having "fine parts both of body and mind and diverting conversation." Near the ch. are the remains of an ancient *well* (*Ffynnon St. Dyfnog*) supposed to work miraculous cures, out of gratitude for which the cost of the E. window was, according to one account, defrayed.

On approaching Denbigh the ruins of the castle are conspicuous on l. The Clwyd is crossed by bridge at Glanywern, 2 m. distant, and rt. the ch. of *Whitchurch* is passed. See p. 82.

Near the Stat. are remains of a Carmelite *Priory*, founded by John Salusbury of Lleweni, 1289. The chapel has a long line of graceful ogees in its N. wall, and a large Perp. E. window.

Denbigh Junct. Stat. (*Inns:*
[*N. Wales.*]

Crown; Bull; both second-rate, near Market Place.)

Denbigh, the county town, a borough of 4422 Inhab., is built on a steep slope of the mountain limestone, at the top of which the rock crops out, forming a pedestal for the Castle to stand on. The town overlooks the broad vale of Clwyd, and is important for its fairs and markets (on Wednesday). The main street leads up from the rly. stat. to the market-place, passing l. a monumental column to Dr. Evan Pierce of this place.

The *Castle*, or rather fortress, so great is its extent, encircles the whole of the hill with two lines of walls and towers, part of which only remain. It may be approached from the market-place (remark its colonnaded shops likethose of Chester) by a steep narrow lane leading to the **Burgesses' Tower*, the only gateway in the outer bail now remaining; it is nearly perfect, with its flanking tower, machicoulis and grooves for portecullis. Crossing the space between the 2 walls once occupied by the old town, but now nearly deserted, you reach the *Castle Gate*, of grand proportions, flanked by 2 octagon towers, but so far stripped of its outer masonry and mutilated that the mouldings of the arch are nearly gone. The whole fortress, except part of the outer wall, is in a similar state of utter ruin; so completely was the Castle razed and slighted by order of Charles II., and so effectually has the gunpowder done its work, that little is left to please the artist or interest the antiquary. In a niche over the archway is a statue, said to be either King Edward I. or Henry de Lacy, founder of the castle. The inner court is an empty area carpeted with turf, around which on the l. may barely be distinguished fragments of well-compacted but shapeless masonry, once the Great Hall, Chapel, Kitchen, &c.; 8 towers origi-

nally surmounted the castle, and parts of the walls and towers are made accessible by wooden stairs and platforms, and 2d. is the modest fee asked for admission. The view from them over the lovely vale of Clwyd, its fertile and well-wooded swells and picturesque lines of hills, is one of which the lover of landscape will not soon be satiated.

The outer wall, which enclosed the old town, depopulated and destroyed during the Wars of the Roses, and now reduced to about 40 poor cottages, was nearly a mile in circuit. Within it, at a short distance below the Great Gate, is the *Church of St. Hilary*, originally the Garrison Chapel, a plain, uninteresting building. Close to it rises a range of 8 tall arches, which, seen against the sky, might be taken for a railway viaduct. They are the commencement of a grand Protestant Church, begun 1579 by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, favourite of Queen Elizabeth, who sold to him the castle and lordship, but resumed possession of it after his death in payment of a debt due to the Crown. He began the Church with the design, it is said, of transferring to Denbigh the see of St. Asaph, but his appointment to command the Queen's forces in Holland both withdrew her attention and diverted his resources from this object.

Between the 2 walls is the *Bowling Green*, worth a visit for its view over the vale of Clwyd, "embellished with woods and diversified with inequalities."—*Dr. Johnson*—and the Castle House, whose grounds include the most perfect portion of the town wall. Lower down is the *Goblin Tower*, descending to a well, whose water once supplied the garrison, but is now diverted.

During the *Civil Wars* Denbigh held out steadfast for King Charles. It became the resort and refuge of many Royalists, and was held with a

garrison of 500 men by Sir W. Salusbury of Rug, who strengthened the works to his best ability. After the battle of Rowton Moor the King himself took refuge in it for some time. Early in 1646 the forces of the Parliament, under Mytton and Myddelton, laid formal siege. Though repeatedly summoned to surrender, it held out, one of the last strongholds in the country, until in Sept. 1646, with the permission of the King, it was yielded up to the Parliament, and Salusbury marched out with arms and honour of war, drums beating and colours flying.

Two modern institutions deserve mention—the *Lunatic Asylum* for N. Wales, a fine pile of building immediately under the S. side of the castle, erected at a cost of 27,000*l.*; and a *College* for the reception of 50 orphan girls, who are educated and maintained from moneys bequeathed in the reign of Henry VII., by Thomas Howell, to the Drapers' Company.

Since 1874 Denbigh possesses a modern Gothic Ch., *St. Mary's*. The reredos, a relief in Caenstone, was the subject of a lawsuit, on account of the Crucifixion in the centre.

1 m. from Denbigh, on rt. of the Ruthin road, is the white tower of *Whitchurch*, or *St. Marcella*, a ch. of the Clwydian type, with two parallel aisles divided by 8 octagonal pillars. It is the parish ch. of Denbigh, and is used as a chapel to the *Cemetery* which surrounds it. Internally it contains some good features of Late Perp.: "well-moulded 4 centre arches arise from octagonal pillars; above these is a cornice filled with a great variety of sculptured detail, and a hammer-beam roof arising from very large corbels." In the porch is a brass to Richard Myddelton, governor of Denbigh Castle, and his 6 children, one of whom was Sir Hugh Myddelton (6th son), famous for the New River

scheme for bringing water to London. Sir Hugh was born at Gallthill, or Galch-hill, half a mile from the town, which he represented in several parliaments. There are also an altar-tomb of the 16th cent. to Sir John Salusbury and wife, and a bas-relief of Humphry Lloyd the antiquary, who lived before Camden, kneeling at his prayers, 1568. On the western wall is a marble tablet in memory of Thomas Edwards, better known as Twm o'r Nant, a modern bard commemorated by George Borrow in his 'Wild Wales.'

Among natives of Denbigh besides Sir Hugh Myddelton, inventor of the New River, London, is Henry Mortlake Stanley, the African traveller and discoverer of Livingstone, who was born in a cottage between the castle and the Bowling Green; his name was John Henry Rowlands.

Distances.—Ruthin, 8 m.; Corwen, 20; Llanrwst, 22; Mold, 16; Cefn Ogof, 5; Llansannan, 8; Rhuddlan, 9; St. Asaph, 6; Bodfari, 4; Llanrhaiadr Ch., $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.

[*Excursions* into the sequestered scenery to the W. and S.W. of the Vale of Aled and its tributary brooks. The road at the W. end of the town leads over the wild Hiræthog hills to Cerrig-y-Drudion, from which a bridle-road turns off at 5 m. rt. to the village of *Llansannan*, on the Aled (Rte. 5). 1 m. l. *Gwaeny-nog*, the seat of Oliver Burton, Esq., is associated with the memory of Dr. Johnson, who was an intimate friend of Dr. Myddelton, the then owner of the estate, who, to commemorate the great man's visit there in company with Mrs. Piozzi, proposed erecting an urn, to the great dislike of the Doctor, who philosophically observed, "I would as willingly see my friend, however benevolent and hospitable, quietly inurned." The monument, on which is a marble tablet, was however raised. Some lines written by Dr. Johnson are still

extant over the door of a cottage near *Ystrad*, belonging to the family of the late R. Sefton Wynne, Esq.

5 m. the pedestrian who does not wish to go on to Llansannan may turn to the l. to *Nantglyn*, a little village in a lovely situation, where, according to tradition, there was a sanctuary, and within the boundaries of which is an old camp 'Hên Ddinbych,' with an ancient road to it. The ch.-yard contains some splendid yews, as well as the graves of William Owen Pughe, the Welsh lexicographer and antiquary, Aneurin Owen, his distinguished son, editor of the 'Ancient Laws and Institutes of Wales' (ob. 1851), and Robert Davies, parish clerk, author of a Welsh Grammar. He can return to Denbigh by another way, making in all about 11 m. The excursion to *Cefn Caves* is described under St. Asaph.]

Denbigh to St. Asaph and Rhyl, 11 m.

The Vale of Clywd Rly. is joined rt. by the line from Mold and Chester (Rte. 10).

[$1\frac{1}{2}$ m. rt. *Lleweni*, the ancient seat of the Salusbury family; in the last century belonged to Robert Cotton, Esq., cousin to Mrs. Thrale, who, along with her husband and Dr. Johnson, spent 3 weeks here in 1774, making visits in the neighbourhood (see Johnson's 'Welsh Tour,' in Croker's 'Boswell').

In the neighbourhood Catherine Tudor, better known hereabouts as Catherine of Beren, held property as heiress to Tudor ap Robert Fychan. She married Sir John Salusbury of Lleweni, and on his death bestowed her hand on Sir Richard Clough, who took the opportunity of proposing to her as he gave her his arm at Sir John's funeral. Before the mournful ceremony was finished another suitor, Mr. Morris Wynn, offered his hand and heart, and was informed by the fair widow that she had just engaged herself, but con-

soled him by assuring him that, in case anything happened to Sir Richard, Mr. Wynn should have the next chance. She ultimately became his wife, and, surviving even him, married for the 4th time Mr. Thelwall of Plas-y-ward. In Charles II.'s time Lleweni came into the possession of the Cottons, from whom it was purchased by the Hon. T. Fitzmaurice, uncle to the Marquis of Lansdowne. He is said, among other eccentricities, to have built a bleaching-factory, the cloth from which he used to take to Chester in a coach and six, and there sell it.

1 m. beyond Lleweni, the Clwyd is crossed close to its junction with the Wheeler at *Pont Ruffydd*.]

23 m. *Treffnant Stat.* About 2 m. from this is Bodfari Stat., on the Mold line, 4 m. from Denbigh. It is about 2 m. from this stat. to the Cefn Caves, passing the copious well of Ffynon Fair.

Treffnant has a beautiful modern Church, erected by Mrs. Townshend Mainwaring, and Mrs. Mainwaring of Oteley, from designs by Sir Gilbert Scott.

23 m. 1. is the village of *Henllan*, h. e. "the old Church," of which the oldest portion is the detached massive square tower built on a rock at the N.E. end of the ch.-yd. Henllan contains vestiges of several old chapels and of battle-fields, barrows, and a once famous well. [The high road on rt. commands fine views over the vale, which are lost to those who travel by rail; it leads to 3 m. *Tremeirchion*, a village in the hundred of Rhuddlan, 3½ miles from St. Asaph, conspicuously placed on the slope of the Clwydian hills. The ch. contains the figure of "Davydd ap Hovel ap Madog," vicar of this parish about the middle of the 14th cent.; also a tomb of Sir Robert Pounderling, governor of Diserth Castle. High up on the hill stands a large *Roman Catholic Seminary*, to which has been

removed, after purchase, the head of a 14th cent. cross from the ch.-yd. There is an ancient well dedicated to St. Beuno in this parish. A little below the village is *Brynbellla*, on the site of the old mansion of Bachygraig, built by, and for some time the residence of, Mrs. Piozzi.]

The rly. now passes through a portion of *Llanerch Park*, arriving at

25 m. *St. Asaph Stat.* The cathedral city of *St. Asaph* or *Llanelwy* (*Inns*: *Plough, ½ m. from Stat.; Kinmel Arms), charmingly placed on rising ground between the rivers Clwyd and Elwy, which, for a short distance previous to their junction, run parallel with each other. Both streams are here crossed by bridges, and are fringed by some fine wychelms and other trees. The city itself is nothing but a quiet and simple but improving village of one street (1901 Inhab.), with the cathedral as its sole object of interest. The see was founded about 560 by Kentigern, Bishop of Glasgow, who, being driven from his own flock, retired hither and founded a monastery or college for 965 monks. On his recall home to Scotland he nominated a pious British monk, Asa or Asaf, to be his successor. He dying in 596, was buried in his own ch., which it is mentioned was first built of wood or wattlework. In Henry III.'s reign it was destroyed, and the bishop reduced to such straits that he was forced to live upon alms. After being rebuilt, it shared the same fate in Edward I.'s time, 1282, during the bishopric of Anian II., when only a portion of the building was left standing. Like its sister of Bangor it again sustained extreme damage at the hands of Owain Glyn-dwr, who burnt it to the ground in 1402, but it was restored in 1482 by Bishop Redman, and, although it suffered fresh insults at the hands of Cromwell, it has since then remained

with pretty much the same features, though considerable modern additions have been made. In the long line of Bishops of St. Asaph are included many divines eminent for their learning and goodness, among whom may be mentioned Dr. William Morgan, the principal translator of the Welsh Bible in 1588, Dr. Isaac Barrow, and the pious Bishop Beveridge.

The *Cathedral*, which stands within a well-kept enclosure, is a cruciform ch., with a central tower remarkable for its plain but massive appearance, which gives to the building a degree of venerable dignity. "Though not large, it has something of dignity and grandeur."—*Dr. Johnson*. The oldest portions now remaining are the aisles and the nave, the Dec. work of Bishop Anian in the latter part of the 13th cent. The transepts, nave, and lantern arches are of very plain and simple architecture, the mouldings of pier and arch unbroken by capital or impost. The chancel has been restored in the E. Eng. style by Sir Gilbert Scott, but the E. window is Dec. The interior has been re-arranged according to the suggestions of Mr. Freeman in the 'Archæologia,' by the removal of the screen, and substituting open seats for the pews which formerly disfigured the chancel. The old oak stalls of fine tabernacle work have also been cleaned, and supplemented by others of the same pattern. A reredos, and a *Bishop's* throne and pulpit, are amongst the restorations and improvements of Sir Gilbert Scott. There is an effigy and monument of a bishop temp. Edward I. in the S. transept, and a seated figure of Dean Shipley, by Ternouth. In the N. transept, behind the organ, is a monument to Bishop Luxmoore, and in S. aisle to the poet Mrs. Hemans, who during her lifetime was much associated with St. Asaph, as she resided some time in a house called Bronwylfa. Her mother and

others of the Browne family are buried here. She was buried at Dublin. The monument of Sir John Williams, of Bodelwyddan, is by *Westmacott*. Daily service is held here, and full cathedral service on Sundays. Bishop Isaac Barrow is buried in the ch.-yd. (d. 1680), near the W. end of the ch.—remark the epitaph—and near him, Bishop Vowler Short.

Opposite the cathedral is the *Canonry*, and at the bottom of the hill, on the other bank of the Elwy, the *Deanery*.

The *Palace*, rebuilt in part by Bishop Cary, stands on the hill; its gardens opening into the ch.-yd. During the Parliamentary wars the Bishop's residence was inhabited by the postmaster, who carried his desecration still further, by turning the font of the cathedral into a pig-trough, and stalling calves in the bishop's throne.

Distances.—Denbigh, 5 m.; Rhyl, 6; Rhuddlan, 3; Cefn Rocks and Caves, 3; Diserth, 5½; Bodelwyddan *Church*, 3; Abergelle, 7 m.

[*Excursion* of about 6 m., to and fro, to *Cefn Caves*, in the rocky Vale of the Elwy, going past *Cefn*, the seat of Mrs. Williams Wynn, widow of Col. Wynn, and returning by Ffynnon-y-Capel and the turnpike-road. The view from the caves is one of the most charming in Wales. A lofty mountain limestone escarpment fringed with birches projects at a great height above the Elwy, which flows through a beautiful wooded ravine, winding round the promontory.

Below, and on the same bank of the river, the face of the cliffs is terraced out in zigzag walks leading to the caves, the key to which can be obtained by application to a cottager at the back of Cefn. Like many caverns in the carboniferous formation, they possess interest from the discovery of fossil bones of ex-

tinct animals, bears, hyenas, hippopotami, cast antlers of the red deer, together with flint flakes. They are mere holes in the rock, but the visitor will be repaid by the beauty of the Glen. The pedestrian with whom time is no object may follow the windings of the Elwy, through scenery which will please him, to Llanfair-talhaiarn, and from thence strike on to Bettws Abergele and Abergele (Rte. 5). Descending from the Cefn rocks and following the l. bank of the stream, the tourist in another mile will find a *Holy Well* called *Efynnon Fair*. It is in a field close to the river, and almost overgrown with ivy. The elegant building which once covered in the well was of the early part of the 15th cent., part Late Perp. Although the building is now ruined, the spring bubbles up as merrily as of yore, and the work of demolition has been put a stop to by enclosing the well and ruins with iron railings. The high road from Denbigh is re-joined close by *Pont-yr-alltgoch* (the bridge of the red cliff), where the Elwy is crossed by a handsome bridge of 1 arch.]

The parish ch. of St. Mary's Cefn is a modern structure in the E. E. style, from designs by Mr. B. Ferrey. The font, of white Carrara marble, a kneeling angel bearing a scallop shell, was a copy of Thorwaldsen's at Copenhagen by his pupil Stein: a rich memorial reredos has been added.

[l. About 3 m. from St. Asaph, is *Bodelwyddan*, the castellated house of Sir W. Grenville Williams, Bart. The **Church*, close to the N., or Rhyl, entrance to the park, together with schools and parsonage, was erected by the munificence of the Dowager Lady Willoughby De Broke as a memorial to her husband, 1856-61, from designs by Gibson of Westminster, and is said to have cost 50,000*l.* It is a cruciform Dec. ch., consisting of nave, transept, N.

and S. aisles, chancel, and a tower crowned with an octagonal spire, 200 ft. high. From its position on rising ground overlooking the vale, the building is a conspicuous feature in the neighbourhood. The interior has been fitted up with a lavish profusion of rich carving, marbles, and stained glass. The tastefully arranged pavement, the carved *Pulpit*, and the font of white Carrara marble, representing two children holding a shell, are some of the more notable features of the edifice, which is so perfect as a whole that no visitor to Rhyl or St. Asaph ought to pass it by unseen.

3½ m. from Abergele is *Kimmel*, the seat of H. R. Hughes, Esq., whose predecessor, Col. Hughes, was created Lord Dinorben. Kimmel House, burnt to the ground in 1841, has been twice rebuilt, the last time, 1874, in Queen Anne's style. In the deer park are some fine views and very majestic timber. 5 m. *St. George*, to l. of which on the eminence of *Parc-y-meirch* is a fortified post, with a triple entrenchment, nearly a mile in circuit, said to have been occupied by Owen Gwynedd on his retreat from Henry II.

7 m. *Abergele*. Rte. 4.]

27½ m. *Rhuddlan Stat.* (h. e. "red-shore," from the new red formation on which it is built). The *Castle*, seen on rt., occupies a striking position on the opposite bank of the Clwyd, and from its appearance raises expectations which are apt to be disappointed on a nearer inspection, for, although of great size and strength, it is in reality a mere ivy-clad shell. It is a red sandstone building of quadrangular shape, having at two opposite angles a round tower, while the other two are occupied by gateways flanked by two towers each. Part of the fosse, which is faced on both sides with

stone, is still in good condition, as well as a square bastion that defended the escarpment towards the river. Robert de Rhuddlan, lord of this place, under Hugh Lupus, his uncle, at the time of Domesday Book, was the founder of the castle. He was a great oppressor of the Welsh, but was ultimately killed in a skirmish with them under the Orme's Head, and buried, as Odericus Vitalis tells us, in the abbey of St. Werburgh, at Chester. It was subsequently rebuilt by Henry II. in 1157. It was on several occasions the temporary residence of royal personages: of Richard II. when on his way to Flint as a prisoner; also of Edward I., who issued from hence the royal edict called the Statute of Rhuddlan, and whose queen, Eleanor, here gave birth to a princess. No Parliament was ever held here, as is supposed, and indeed narrated on an inscription let into an old wall in the village. From its position, it sustained its full share of border warfare. In 1646 it was taken from the Royalists by General Mytton, and ordered by the Parliament to be slighted or dismantled.

On the old road to St. Asaph there are slight traces remaining of a *Priory* of Black Friars, founded in the 13th cent., and adjacent to it a mound surrounded by a fosse, and called Tut-hill, the site of a more ancient fortress, said to have been built by Llewelyn ap Sitsyllt (A. D. 1015). Not far from the Priory, too, is a farmhouse called Spital or 'Ysptyty,' formerly a hospital of the Knights Templars. A figure of a knight of the 13th century is to be seen on one of the walls of the Abbey farmhouse. The *Church*, situated close to the bridge, is a well restored building with a large Dec. window and a rather massive tower, designed for a landmark to vessels out at sea when Rhuddlan was a busy port. It contains a recumbent figure in the S.

aisle, besides 2 incised coffin slabs, supposed to have been removed hither from the priory, and a modern monument to Dean Shipley. The village itself, though formerly an important borough, is now a decayed little place of only one main street.

The marsh of *Morfa Rhuddlan*, on the other side of the river, is celebrated in Welsh annals as being the scene of a dreadful battle in 795 between the Welsh under Caradoc and the Saxons under Offa, King of Mercia. The former were routed with great slaughter, their leader slain, and the prisoners all put to death, a national disaster which has been commemorated in the plaintive Welsh air of *Morfa Rhuddlan*:—

"And Rhuddlan saw, beneath o'erwhelming
foes,
The prince and nobles of her country slain."

Bodelwyddan Ch. is $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Rhuddlan Stat. (see p. 86).

$2\frac{1}{2}$ m. rt. is Diserth Castle (Rte. 4), and at the foot of the hill *Bodrhyddan* (pronounced Bōdruthan), the ancient seat of the Conwy family, containing a collection of ancient armour. On the l. bank of the Elwy, close to its junction with the Clwyd, is *Pengwern*, a seat of Sir W. G. Williams, Bt., which was burnt down in the spring of 1864.

The Voryd, or tidal part of the Clwyd river, which is crossed at Rhuddlan by a two-arched bridge built in 1595 by Bishop Hughes, is navigable from hence to its mouth. The rly. is carried over a dead level to

31 m. *Rhyl Junct. Stat.* (Rte. 4), there to effect a union with the Holyhead and Chester line.

ROUTE 12.

CONWAY TO BETTWS-Y-COED AND
FESTINIOG, BY TREFRIW AND
LLANRWST, BY CONWY RIVER,
AND BY RAIL.

Ascent of the River Conwy.—A small *Steamer* starts from Deganway or Llandudno Stat., when the tide is flowing, for Trefriw, on the left bank of the river, 10 m. up.

A little beyond the ferry and stat. of Tal-y-Cafn l. (see below) the steamer brings to, near Trefriw.

The steamer makes a very short stay there, returning with the ebb tide.

Leaving Conway Castle and the town walls and the Chester and Holyhead Rly., a fine view is gained of the town and castle as we cross the broad estuary of the river. A bend in its course soon shuts out Conway from view, but the mountains Carnedd Llewelyn and others appear rt.

[Nearly opposite the mansion of *Benarth*, on the rt. bank of the river, is the village of *Llansantffraid Glan Conway* and rly. stat. 4 m. l. are seen the rly. stat. and ferry of *Tal-y-Cafn*. See below.

$4\frac{1}{2}$ m. rt. *Caerhun* (H. D. Griffiths, Esq.), whose grounds contain the remains of the Roman station of *Conovium*, distant in the Itinerary 19 m. from *Varis* (Bodfari, Rte. 10) and 24 m. from *Segontium* (Caernarvon, Rte. 14). The entrance gate, nearly opposite the mountain road to

Aber, leads to the *Church*, which stands on the site of the Roman stat. The ruins are a little behind the ch.-yard towards the river. There is an enormous holly near this ch.-yard, the stem of which is about 9 ft. in circumference. From hence a Roman road on rt. may be traced over the hills through the solitary pass of *Bwlch-y-Ddeufaen* to Aber. Down the wooded slopes forming the l. bank of the river descend the streams rising in *Llyn Dulyn* and *Llyn Eigiau*, which form the pretty cascades of *Porth Lwyd*, and a little further on the Falls of *Dolgarrog*; but little is seen of them from the river.

1. *Trefriw* (pronounced *Trev'rew'*) (*Inns*: *Bellevue*, close to the landing-place; *Ship*). At the mouth of a small glen, in whose upper branches lie the *Llynns Crafnant* and *Geirionydd*, stands the village, about a mile from the Pier, and landing-quay for timber and slate. It is becoming a small watering-place, owing to its mineral springs (sulphurous and chalybeate), rising in an old mine-working, which are received and dispensed from a gable-roofed *Spa-house*, and have caused numerous lodging-houses to spring up.

Trefriw is 3 m. distant from *Llanrwst* stat. (see below).

The travellers should visit the *Dolgarrog* waterfalls on the *Afon Ddu* river, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Trefriw village, above the springs. They are worth seeing after rain; 2 streams, one of them much the broadest, divide at some distance from each other. The rock down which the water is thrown is formed in horizontal ledges into deep clefts and chasms. The streams unite a little above the middle of the fall; they rush thence in foam over the rocks. The *Afon Ddu* river, which is crossed by the road at *Dolgarrog*, rises in *Llyn Cowlyd*, a long, narrow sheet of water about 6 m. up the mountains.

On the top of the high hill overlooking Trefriw, 500 feet above the Conwy, hard to find, but well worth a visit, is the little Church of Llanrhychwyn, the mother ch., it is said, of Trefriw, but one of the rudest and most primitive of Houses of God in Wales, in a grove of 7 yews.

The ramblor will find charming and numberless walks in this neighbourhood.

a. Across the meadows to Llanrwst.

b. Along the base of the hanging woods to Gwydir and Gwydir Uchau.

c. Up the glen behind Trefriw to *Lake Cragnant*, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. The lake is about a mile long, and from the extremity of it a path strikes l. over the mountain to Capel Curig, 7 m.

d. The *Falls of the Porth Lwyd* are formed by a stream, which is crossed by the Conwy road on a bridge, close to which a path strikes up the steep hillside. After passing some cottages, a gate on l. leads to the falls, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m., the highest of which descends 50 ft. over the face of the rock. The whole course of the stream is broken by slips of rock and piles of boulders, and lies partly through clefts and gorges. It is a wild walk upwards to *Llyn Eigiau*, which the stream traverses—a most romantic scene, the bluff face of the rock overhanging the water. 3 or 4 m. high the river takes its rise at the base of Carnedd Llewelyn.

e. The glen which opens out behind Trefriw is traversed by a river formed by two streams issuing from *Llyn Cragnant* and *Llyn Geirionydd*, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. Of both these lakes a fine view is to be had from the top of Cefn Cyfarwydd at the back of Trefriw. The former is picturesque in the extreme, the latter was the abode of Taliesin, the father of Welsh poets. He is said to have been found on the shore of the lake, like Moses in the bulrushes, by a son of Gwyddno Garanhir in the 6th cent. Other localities claim him, but it is very

likely that he lived here, as he refers to Llyn Geirionydd in one of his poems. A monument was erected by Lord Willoughby de Eresby to notify the place of Taliesin's residence; but even this is said to be put up on the wrong side of the lake.

The pedestrian may find some of the most splendid scenery in N. Wales by walking from Trefriw past the head of Llyn Geirionydd or Cragnant—ascending the pass and descending to Capel Curig—when Moel Siabod, Snowdon, and the Glyders all burst on the view in their majestic grandeur. He need not descend again to Trefriw, but may make his way by the rude village of *Llanrhychwyn* and through the wood of Gwydir to 12 m. *Llanrwst*.

—
Conwy to Bettws-y-Coed by Railway, 15 m., 7 trains daily, in 40 min. The train starts from the Llandudno Stat., on the Conwy embankment under the Castle, and skirts the estuary of the Conwy, a broad lake at high water, a wide stretch of mud and sand at low.

Leaving on l. the rly. to Chester, our line bends round to

Glan Conway Stat. (Llansantffraid). There is a fine Cromlech close to the line 5 min. l.

7 m. l. is *Bodnoch* (H. D. Pochin, Esq.).

$8\frac{1}{2}$ m. *Tal-y-Cafn Stat.* (a small Inn). By crossing the *Ferry* here, over the Conwy, the traveller may visit the Roman station *Caerhun*, and the waterfalls of the *Porthlwyd* and *Avon Ddu*, and the *Lakes Dulyn* (6 m.) and *Cowlyd* (described above under Trefriw), or may make the ascent of Carnedd Llewelyn (8 m.), a grand feature in the view from the rly. The river now contracts in width. The Abbey (Lord Newborough) retains the name of that of *Maenan*, founded by Edward I., of which nothing remains. Here is caught a delicate fish, the

Sparling. The rich hanging woods of Gwydir, and the towering rock of the Falcon's Craig, are fine features rt. on approaching

15 m. Llanrwst Stat., $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the town, 1 m. from Trefriw (*Inns*: Victoria, near the bridge, 2nd class; Eagles). This town of 3688 Inhab. is in itself uninteresting, though prettily placed on the rt. bank of the Conwy, which is here crossed by a *Bridge* of 3 arches, having an inconvenient rise in the middle. It is said to have been built by Inigo Jones (N.B., he was born in London). The *old Church*, reached by a lane from the market-place, is charmingly situated on the bank of the river and shaded by yews. It is dedicated to *St. Grwst* or *Rhystyd* (i.e. *Restitutus*), whence the name of the town. Within, it is low and of no particular style, but contains a remarkably perfect and richly-carved *Roodscreen* and roodloft, said to have been brought from the Abbey of Maenan, but looking as though made for the place it occupies. Attached to the ch., on the S., is the interesting *Gwydir Chapel*, built 1633 by Inigo Jones (much in the style (Perp.) of Lincoln's Inn Chapel), for Sir Richard Wynne of Gwydir, and serving as the burial chapel of that family for many generations. A marble tablet on the wall records their long pedigree: see also several late brasses; one an engraved portrait of Sarah, wife of Sir Richard Wynne; also a miniature effigy in marble of a swaddled child, Sydney Wynne. Against the S. wall is the singular monument of Meredith Wynne, flanked by 2 obelisks! On the floor lies the stone effigy in armour of Howel Cogtmor, and the open stone coffin of Llewelyn the Great, brought from Conwy Abbey.

$\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the town, across the bridge, is *Gwydir House*, the seat of Lady Aveland. The grounds and house are shown to visitors. It is a charming specimen of an Eliza-

bethan mansion of the 16th cent.; rooms low and not large, but snug and well preserved. A small part built by Sir John Wynne in 1555 still exists, the rest being an addition of 1816. In the interior are some fine old-fashioned rooms, with ancient furniture, and walls either panelled or hung with leather stamped with gold. They contain much oak-carving of the period of Elizabeth and James I., and several elaborately carved oak four-post beds of the date of Elizabeth. Among other curiosities is a screen said to have been worked by Mary Queen of Scots. Gwydir stands in a charming garden, suited to the style of the house, with bright parterres of flowers, clipped yews, formal hedges, and cypresses. Pictures of Sir John Wynne and Catherine of Beren are still preserved. Sir John also built another house on the rocks above, all of which is demolished save the *Chapel*. The Wynnes, who subsequently became the Wynnes of Wynnstay (Rte. 1), held this property till the latter part of the 17th cent., when the heiress of Sir Richard Wynne married the Marquis of Lindsey, and thus brought it into the family of Ancaster. The Baroness Willoughby, daughter of the Duke, married Sir Peter Burrell, afterwards 1st Lord Gwydir, and the estate has since remained in the present family of Gwydir. The views from the rocks above and the various parts of the grounds are very charming. There are also a waterfall and a picturesque lake.

For *Excursions* from Llanrwst turn to Trefriw, p. 88.

Conveyances from Llanrwst.—Rail to Conway, 12 m., and Bettws-y-Coed, 4 m., and Festiniog.

Distances.—Trefriw, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Caerhun, $7\frac{1}{2}$; Llyn Geirionydd, 4; Capel Curig, 10; Pentrevoelas, 11; Rhaiadr-y-Wenol, $6\frac{1}{2}$; Gwytherin, 6; Banger, 25 m.

[An excursion may be made by a pedestrian through a broken and romantic country to Gwytherin, the site of an ancient nunnery and original burial-place of St. Winifred, and from thence by the valleys on Elwy and Aled to St. Asaph and Denbigh (Rtes. 5, 11).]

The Railroad to Bettws-y-Coed is on the rt. bank of the Conwy. The scenery rapidly improves in character, the vale becoming much narrower, and the woods on either side feathering down nearly to the water's edge.

Bettws-y-Coed Stat., opposite the centre of the village, near the old Ch. *Coaches* start from this to Bangor by Capel Curig (Rte. 12A). Omnibuses to the Hotels.

Bettws-y-Coed (*Inns* : **Waterloo, well managed, perfectly comfortable, obliging landlord and landlady; Royal Oak—the sign was painted by David Cox in one of his frequent sojourns in this Inn during 50 years; Gwydir Arms).

Bettws-y-Coed (*i.e.* the Station in the Wood) is one of the most charmingly situated villages in Wales, a little above the junction of the Llugwy, flowing from the N., with the Conwy descending from the S. Its houses, neat Gothic Ch., and hotels stretch for nearly a mile along the old Holyhead road, here an avenue shaded by fine trees, from the Bridge of *Pont-y-Pair* (the artists' delight), spanning the rocks and clefts, through and over which the Llugwy leaps, just below a craggy fir-crowned islet, to the Waterloo Iron Bridge over the Conwy.

The houses of Bettws look N. down the vale of Llanrwst, and are backed by a semicircle of precipitous hills clothed with rich woods, except along their bare craggy scars. Not a single high mountain-top is visible from the village, but by paths ascending above

these you may enjoy magnificent views of the Snowdonian chain.

Bettws has an old *Church* beyond the rly. stat., now deserted, and only remarkable for an effigy of Grufed ap David Goch and its old yew-trees; and a simple modern Gothic *Church*, whose elegant *Font* of Cornish serpentine, the gift of a lady in the neighbourhood, deserves notice. *Service* twice on Sunday, also on Saints days. Efforts are being made to increase the clergyman's stipend, which is miserably small.

Many neat cottages are scattered among the woods around the valley, none prettier than *Tyn-y-Bryn*, on an eminence above the Llugwy. It is sometimes let for the summer months; another is *Myria*, on a platform of the wooded hills opposite, studded with choice coniferæ, above the Conwy.

The truly beautiful scenery in the midst of which Bettws is seated, and the good accommodation furnished by 4 or 5 Inns, render it an excellent resting-place for travellers, and a centre from which charming

Excursions may be made :

§ *a.* A rough road leads up behind the modern ch., through the wood, to an upland moor, in the midst of which lies *Llyn Elsie*, a silent tarn amidst hillocks, from which a view of Moel Siebod may be obtained—distance about 1½ m.

§ *b.* To the so called *Swallow Falls* (*Rhaiadr-y-Wennol*), 2½ m. from Bettws. The Holyhead road by Bangor passes close to them, ascending the rt. branch of the Llugwy. There is an Inn close to the Falls (see Rte. 12A). The pedestrian may cross *Pont-y-Pair*, and by a path on the left side of the Llugwy, ascending to a tower, which commands a fine view, may make his way down to the Falls and Capel Curig road, passing the frail wooden Miners' Bridge, distance 1½ m. from Bettws.

§ *c.* Three mountain streams, the

Lledr, the Machno, and the Conwy, form junctions within 2 m. S. of Bettws, and contribute largely by their scenery to the attraction of the district. No one should omit to walk or drive 3 m. along Telford's Holyhead road, as far as the bridge, where the road to Penmachno branches off rt., for in this distance it commands the most picturesque views in N. Wales, overlooking the grand wooded and rocky gorges of the three rivers; while in the background the mountain Moel Siabod is the most striking feature. The road passes, but out of sight and far below, the Fairy Glen and Conwy Falls. The latter are reached by a road turning out of that to Corwen at the second milestone. See § d.

§ d. The above-mentioned gorge of the Conwy includes 2 very striking scenes, both of which may be visited from the Corwen road (§ c). The *Fairy Glen* (Foss Noddyn), about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Bettws, is reached by crossing the *Waterloo Bridge*, of one elegant iron arch, constructed by Telford for the Holyhead road in 1815, and by taking the first turn rt. out of the Corwen road. This lower road runs up the rt. side of the Conwy, but instead of crossing at Beaver Pool Bridge, ascend a lane to l. through a gate, and in 200 yds. you reach a rude stair, leading down into *The Fairy Glen*, a rock chasm, where the Conwy forces its way among huge fallen blocks, and under cliffs worn in curves by the stones whirled round by the stream. It is a striking scene of rock, water, and foliage.

§ e. About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. higher up the Conwy, but to be reached by taking the Corwen road to the second milestone, where the road to Penmachno turns rt., are the very beautiful **Falls of the Conwy**. A wicket gate close to the bridge leads down the rt. bank to a deeper and more stupendous gorge, into which the Conwy and the

Machno, leaping down, unite their waters. The grandeur of this deep and narrow ravine is much injured by the intrusion of a modern salmon-ladder. Regaining the road and crossing the bridge over the Conwy (Pont Newydd), and following the road about 5 yds., a cross-field path may be found to the *Machno Falls*, and to the very edge of the precipice, between the rivers, at whose feet their waters meet. This is close to *Pandy Mill*, which artists have so often delighted to portray. It is reached by a detour, to gain Pandy Bridge, but there are stepping-stones just above the fall, bringing you to the mill direct. A rough cart-road down the l. side of the Conwy, very picturesque, leads from the Mill into the Lledr Valley and Bridge. It is about 2 m. from Pandy Mill to Bettws by this road.

§ d. Ascent of *Capel Garmon*. 10 yds. beyond Waterloo Bridge a flight of steps between 2 walls leads to a rough and steep path, which brings you in $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour to the summit, commanding one of the finest views of the *Snowdon Range* to be attained near Bettws, not including Snowdon itself, which is hid by Moel Siabod. The hill-top is marked by a cairn, and is accessible by a pony or car to within 200 yds. There is a *Cromlech* near this, Tyn-y-Coed.

Capel Garmon may also be reached by a steep carriage-road $\frac{1}{4}$ m. l. beyond Waterloo Bridge, or by following the Corwen high road for about $\frac{3}{4}$ m., when a lane, practicable for a carriage, ascends the hill on l. It descends into the Conwy Valley 2 m. short of Llanwrst; and the excursion may be pleasantly extended by crossing the river by Llanwrst Bridge, and returning to Bettws (12 m.) past Gwydir and along the left bank of the Conwy, and over Pont-y-Pair.

§ e. To Llyn Ogwen, Llyn Idwall, and Nant Ffroncon Mill (Rte. 12a).

§ f. To *Llanwrst Church* and

Gwydir (p. 90), by rail or road, returning by road on l. bank of Conwy under hanging woods).

§ g. To Festiniog, by the Valley of the Lledr and Dolwyddelan—Rail. Rte. 12B.

Distances.—Llanrwst, 4 m.; Capel Curig, 6; Rhaiadr-y-Wennol, $2\frac{1}{2}$; Dolwyddelan, $7\frac{1}{4}$; Festiniog (Rly.) Pentrevoelas, 7; Penmachno, $4\frac{1}{2}$; Corwen, $22\frac{1}{2}$; Pont-y-glyn, $16\frac{1}{2}$ m.

Coaches daily in summer to Bangor, 20 m.; to Llanberis—to Portmadoc, by Capel Curig, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m., Beddgelert and Pont Aberglaslyn.

ROUTE 12A.

**BETTWS-Y-COED TO BANGOR, BY
CAPEL CURIG, NANT FFRANCON,
AND THE SLATE QUARRIES.** 20 m.

One of the most interesting roads in Wales for grand and varied scenery. Coaches—daily, to and fro in summer. Rail, Bethesda to Bangor.

The road from Bettws-y-Coed to Capel Curig passes in about a mile from Bettws the *Miners' Bridge*, a slim structure, steeply inclined, thrown across the river to some projecting rocks. The road commands some glorious glimpses of river scenery, continuing closely along the rt. bank of the Llugwy to

$2\frac{1}{4}$ m. *Rhaiadr-y-Wennol*, or Swallow Fall. The coach pulls up here in order that the passengers may run down the walks and visit the Fall. After rainy weather this may be considered a fine cataract for breadth and volume, though not in height. A small fee, for keeping the paths in repair, is given to the landlord of the Inn adjoining the Falls.

$\frac{3}{4}$ m. above the Inn, the Llugwy is crossed by a picturesque bridge, Pont-y-Cyffing. The road, which, since leaving Bettws-y-Coed, has been gradually rising, now keeps the l. bank of the stream past Tyn-y-Coed Inn, a comfortable and popular resort of artists. The dark summit Moel Siabod (pronounced Shabbod) becomes a marked feature in the landscape.

Tan-y-Bwlch (not to be confounded with a place of the same name near Festiniog) is a group of lodging-houses, with 2 little Inns, generally full of artists, who resort hither on account of the picturesque scenery round it. The Llugwy forms pretty rock-falls near a bridge, and its banks are well wooded.

[A little further on a road turns l. to *Capel Curig*, about 400 yds. off the Bangor road, on the way to Llanberis and Beddgelert. The Inn (Royal Hotel), a long straggling house, much frequented by travellers, is surrounded by a few trees, and stands in a bare district, near 2 small lakes, but commands the finest view of *Snowdon*, for the ascent of which mountain this place is sometimes chosen, though it is 9 m. to the summit, 4 of them along the high road (see Rte. 17).

1 m. rt. from Capel Curig a track crosses the shoulders of the hill to Llyn Cowlyd amid some very wild and grand scenery. Thence you may follow the Afon Ddu to Dolgarrog and the Conwy (Rte. 12).

Distances.—Bettws-y-Coed, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Rhaiadr-y-Wenol, $3\frac{3}{4}$; Llanrwst, 10; Llanberis, 10; Penygwryd, 4; Snowdon, 9; Glyder, 5; Moel Siabod, $3\frac{1}{2}$; Beddgelert, 12; Llyn Ogwen, 4; Bethesda, 9; Bangor, $14\frac{1}{2}$ m.]

On regaining the Holyhead road there is a continued ascent through marshy ground, until the watershed is crossed dividing the Llugwy from the Ogwen. The traveller who has left the Snowdon valley on the l. will

soon have reason to rejoice in the magnificent scenery that is once more opening before him; for, with the exception of the Llanberis pass, he is now entering the finest gorge in the whole country.

On the rt. is the enormous block of mountain of which Carneddau Dafydd and Llewelyn are the centres, while on the l. a still more savage and precipitous chain intervening between Llyn Ogwen and Llanberis, the Glyders and Trifaen, seems as if about to close over the pass and entirely to block it up.

[At a bridge where the Llugwy is crossed for the last time, the ascent may be made to *Carnedd Dafydd* or *Carnedd Llewelyn*—a steep and fatiguing pull, but one that is amply repaid by the splendid views. The Llugwy must be followed up to Glan Llugwy, whence strike up the shoulder of Craig Llugwy, and keep along the ridge until it divides. The one to l. is the ridge of the Black Ladders, and on rt. is *Bwlch-cyfrwydrym* (the Saddle-back Pass), a narrow ledge, $\frac{3}{4}$ m. long, which ends at the summit of Carnedd Llewelyn. On each side are tremendous abysses, the one to the E. containing a tarn, *Ffynnon Llugwy*. "The summit, which is 3469 ft. in height, is said to have been marked by a fortified camp of Llewelyn, who from this eminence beheld Bangor in flames at the hands of the army of King John, to whom he sent his daughter Joan with terms of peace." —*Lloyd*. But little traces are left of it, though the Ordnance surveyors have raised a memorial in the shape of an enormous cairn. Probably, for extent, the view is equal to any in Wales, particularly to the N., in which Anglesey and the coast appear at one's feet. On the S. the most prominent points are the Glyders, the strangely-indented head of Trifaen, and the Snowdon range behind them. Aber lies to the N.W.,

and a descent can be made thither in 6 or 7 m. The llyns under Cefn-yrryrry to the N.E. are Melynllyn and Llyn Dulyn, which supply rivulets to the Conwy. Should the tourist not wish to descend to Aber, he can retrace his steps to the Black Ladders and visit Carnedd Dafydd (3427 ft.), below which there is a deep semi-circular *cwm*, containing the little Ffynnon-y-Lloer. From Braich-ddu there is a practicable descent, though very steep, to the shores of Llyn Ogwen, where it receives the Afon Lloer, exactly opposite the Trifaen. Or a good descent may be made directly into the valley of the Afon Lloer, joining the road about $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Capel Curig. This is shorter than descending by Braich-ddu or returning by the Black Ladders to Craig Llugwy. The geologist should look out for evidences of iceberg or glacier action on the flanks of the mountain.]

8 m. Llyn Ogwen is a narrow sheet of water nearly 1 m. in length, occupying the whole of the pass between *Braich Ddu*, a shoulder of Carnedd Dafydd, on the N., and the Trifaen and Glyder Vach on the S. The Holyhead road is carried along its S. margin. It is a favourite lake with anglers, though (perhaps from poaching) it is by no means as good as it used to be. Shore-fishing is nearly useless; therefore the angler must hire a boat, which belongs to the hotels at Capel Curig or Bethesda (Douglas Arms). This practically puts the fishing into the hands of the landlords, and generally entails, besides the expense of a boat, the necessity of a car and driver. The lake belongs to Lord Penrhyn of Penrhyn Castle, and is open to all anglers.

The Ogwen issues from the lake through a narrow savage gorge, called the Pass of the Benglog, whence it is precipitated in a series of falls for more than 100 ft. From the broken

and disjointed character of the rocks it becomes rather a series of short falls than one large cataract.

At the roadside, close to the lake, is a Cottage furnishing refreshments and a bed at a pinch, close to a water Mill, at which *honestones* are cut and fashioned out of the slate here quarried; in an adjoining shed horses and traps can be put up. At this spot the traveller should turn aside to *Llyn Idwal*, the wildest and most savage of Welsh lakes, which lies in a deep crater a little higher on the mountain, $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from the road, to the S. of the W. end of *Llyn Ogwen*. A path at the side of the hone-mill, marked by flat stones laid upon the wet marsh, ascends the hill, and crossing several watercourses, leads in $\frac{1}{2}$ hr's. walk to the *Llyn*. The rocks on either side consist of feldspath porphyry, and interbedded grit. The waters of the lake are dammed up by an ancient moraine, and there are many marks of ancient glaciers around. For gloomy grandeur it has not its equal: "bare rocks rising precipitously from it, darken its calm surface."

On the W. side of the *llyn*, high up in the face of the precipice, exists an extraordinary chasm, called *Twl Ddu*, the Black Hole, or the *Devil's Kitchen*. It is a narrow cleft in the rock, about 100 yards deep, between perpendicular cliffs of black slaty rock, down which the water from *Llyn-y-Cwm*, on the mountain above, finds its way to *Llyn Idwal*. To climb into it requires a considerable amount of nerve and steady footing, as the rocks are fearfully slippery, and a false step might lead to serious consequences. It is possible to scramble up the rocks on the left side of this cleft to a small tarn, *Llyn-y-Cwm*, at the base of *Glydir Fawr*, and thence to descend into the Pass of *Llanberis*, opposite the old ch. But no one should attempt this, or to approach *Twl*

Ddu in misty weather without a guide.

[A little to the E. of *Llyn-y-Cwm* is the eminence of *Glyder Fawr*, and connected with it by a range of precipices is the **Glyder Fach*, the highest points in this range. The summit commands exquisite views over *Llanberis* and the lakes to the S.W., the peak of *Moel-y-Wyddfa* (Snowdon) being directly opposite. Immediately to the N. is *Y Trifaen*, a spur of the *Glyder Fach*. "The summit of the *Glyder* seems as if it had been washed by a tremendous sea; the stones (huge blocks, slabs, and obelisks) lie loose and strewn at hazard, as on some wild coast: rocks, bare, cloven, and jagged, lie crossing each other in different directions, while the huge pointed *Trifaen*, with its sharp angular projections, height above height, seems like some huge monster; these and a magnificent natural *carnedd* of enormous blocks, fit crown to the grandest crag and block scene in Britain, are special attributes of the top of the *Glyder Fach*."—*Roscoe*. It supplies an exciting scene in *Kingsley's* 'Two Years Ago.' The *Trifaen* is remarkable for the two enormous rocks on its summit, which from the vale below appear like figures. Although this mountain is seemingly inaccessible, it may be scaled without much difficulty on its western side. With the Cambrian rocks underlying the Boulder drift on its summit, it is full of interest to the geologist. In *Cwm Bochlwyd*, underneath the *Glyder*, is *Llyn Bochlwyd*, one of the most perfect examples of a glacier lake in the district.]

The river *Ogwen* issues out of the lake, and at once descends in the series of step-like falls, called *Benglog*, amid broken and fissured rocks into the romantic *Nant Efrancon*, the Beaver Glen, about 3 m. long.

10 m. The *Ogwen* at the Falls.

is crossed by a bridge at a sudden turn of the road, which immediately begins to descend the grand vale. An excellent terrace-road skirts the rt. of the vale, enabling the traveller to view at his ease the vista of mountains on each side. In Pennant's time the journey through the vale was so formidable that he described it as the "most dreadful horsepath in Wales."

The road keeps above and on the rt. bank of the Ogwen, passing *Ogwen Bank*, the charmingly-situated shooting-seat of Lord Penrhyn. A little to the l. the huge accumulations of slate-rubbish, almost as sombre-looking as the cinder-heaps of the coal districts, betoken the proximity of the *Penrhyn Slate Quarries*, the property of the Pennant family, which have been worked for many years on the very largest scale. The valley of the Ogwen expands into a basin, surrounded by the grandest mountains, *Carnedd Dafydd, N.*, and *Y Glyder Fawr* on S.

1½ m. *Bethesda Stat.* (about a mile from the quarries and the *Ian, Douglas Arms*), a slate village, or rather say a busy town, with shops and chapels, a neat parish Church and parsonage, several schools, and a hospital, all erected for the use of the quarrymen. The sight and sounds here are singular enough to a stranger. The whole side of the mountain is cut away in ledges or terraces, and dotted here and there at different levels by minute figures of workmen hacking at and detaching the slates. Here a busy group is seen carrying away a block to the workshops to be split; there a solitary quarryman hangs dangling by a rope, like a spider at the end of his web, suspended from the rock above, in the face of which he is patiently boring a hole to be filled with the charge of gunpowder. On a sudden a horn winds with a long and peculiar note; the busy workmen gradually dis-

appear into holes and crannies, and, after the lapse of a few minutes, the horn again sounds, and from 20 to 50 blasts are discharged in irregular and rapid succession from all sides and levels of the vast amphitheatre: masses of slate are rent away, falling down the sides like an avalanche, and fragments are sometimes driven through the air into the quarry below. The present improved regulations as to fixed times of blasting, and the strongly-constructed sheds made for the men to take refuge in, have greatly diminished the number of casualties and the loss of life which formerly occurred, chiefly from inattention to the warnings. The explosion cracks the rock to a considerable depth, enabling the men to detach large pieces with their bars; they are afterwards conveyed away on trams to the workshops to be split. The peculiar metallic sound emitted as the slates shoot down the steep inclines, the oft-recurring reverberation from the blasting, the enormous sombre heaps of rubbish, the materials of which are ever restless, ever working, the Babel of Welsh tongues shouting and vociferating, as only a Welshman can shout, the constant and ceaseless bustle—all combine to make it a picture full of interest. In the centre of the quarry rises a pyramid or conical pillar of greenstone, which having intruded itself into the midst of the slate, and being too hard and unprofitable to excavate, has been left standing by the workmen.

The slates, when dressed, are packed close, edges uppermost, in wooden tramcars, and are thus taken down to Port Penrhyn, about 6 m., where they are shipped for exportation.

The quarries and Bethesda are now connected with Bangor by a short Railroad which, within a mile of the Stat. quits the vale of the Ogwen, here lined on each side by wooded banks, and through a tunnel

enters that of the Cegin, by Tregarth, and

Felin Hen Stat.

[This Rly. leaves on the rt. the model village of *Llandegai*, situated on the Holyhead road, whose neat and well-kept cottages, each forming a part of a consistent design, cluster round the *Church*, which stands on a slight eminence embosomed in trees and approached by a densely thick avenue of yews. It was restored by Lord Penrhyn, and contains a mural monument to Williams, Archbishop of York and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal in the time of James I. Upon an alabaster altar-tomb rest the effigies of a knight and lady unknown. There is also a monument to Lord and Lady Penrhyn, by Westmacott, supported on one side by a female figure in the attitude of grief, and on the other by a slate-quarrier, bearing the implements of his profession. At the entrance into the village is the fine Norm. gateway leading into *Penrhyn Park*, described in Rte. 7. *Llandegai* was the scene of a fight, in 1648, between Sir John Owen, of Clenenney, and Col. Twistleton, at the head of the Parliamentary army, in which the former was taken prisoner.]

The Bethesda Rly. joins that from Chester to Holyhead, between the 2 tunnels leading into

37 m. **Bangor Station** (*Inns*: George Hotel, near the Menai Bridge; British, near Railway; Castle). See Rte. 7.

ROUTE 12B.

BETTWS-Y-COED TO FESTINIOG BY
DOLWYDDELAN — LOND. AND N.
WEST. RAIL.

12½ m., 5 or 6 trains daily in 40 min.

This single line, very difficult of construction, costing more than ½ a million sterling, was made by the Lond. and N.-W. Rly. Comp. to open out the slate district of Festiniog to the sea.

From Bettws Stat. it is carried behind the Waterloo Hotel and Bridge, and up the l. bank of the Conwy as far as the Beavers' Pool and the junction of Lledr, where it commences the ascent of that lovely valley, terraced on the hillside high above the stream, which it crosses at 3 m. by a stately *Viaduct* of five arches, somewhat to the detriment of this, the most charming part of the valley. The river here finds its way through narrow ravines of fallen rocks, while the vista is closed, at the upper end, by the striking outline of the mountains above Festiniog, of Siabod and of Snowdon beyond.

4 m. *Pont-y-Pant Stat.* (a small Inn), near a wooden bridge over Lledr, is a favourite spot with artists. The gorge is here succeeded by an open basin of meadows, with few trees, in the midst of which stands

5½ m. *Dolwyddelan Stat.*, a village of scattered houses, chiefly slate-quarriers' dwellings (*Inns*: Elen's Castle, small but clean; Benar View, ½ m. from Stat.). 1 m. higher up the vale is

Dolwyddelan Castle, a tall rough square tower, finely placed on a bold projecting steep, overhanging the

road, of great thickness of wall, with a fragment of a second tower. The date of its erection is very uncertain. This castle was formerly the residence of Iorwerth Drwyndwn (the Broken Nose), father of Llewelyn the Great, who was born here. The claims of Iorwerth to the throne of Wales were disallowed in consequence of his deformity. In the time of Henry VII. this district was torn to pieces by the quarrels of rival families and clans. "To such lengths did they carry their animosity, that Meredydd ap Ivan is stated to have purchased the castle as a place of defence within which to retreat from the violence of his own relations, although the immediate vicinity was beset with bands of robbers and outlaws.

Meredydd built the present *Church* of Dolwyddelan, now modernized, which contains brasses of himself and wife, 1525, and a house called *Penam-naen* in the *cwm* of the same name. The scenery at Dolwyddelan is remarkably fine, from its being so entirely surrounded by mountains, conspicuous amongst which the enormous mass of *Moel Siabod* towers high in the air. At the very head of the valley the Lledr takes its rise in the recesses of Yr Arddu and Moel Lledr, shoulders of that great "mob of mountains" of which Moelwyn is the chief.

rt. The peaks of Snowdon come into view for a moment.

The valley of the Lledr is crossed at Dolwyddelan by the *Sarn Helen*, a Roman road which traversed this district, probably between Segontium and Heriri Mons (Tomen y Mur). It may be plainly traced ascending the deep curve of Penam-naen, and crossing the hills to the S. With reference to this Roman road, the Rly. comp. have named the next stat.

7½ m. *Romans Bridge Stat.*, though they have no authority but their own for attributing such an origin

to any structure in the neighbourhood.

[There is a pleasant walk of 6 m. from this Stat. to Capel Curig, either following the line of the Roman road to Pont-y-Pant, or by the lakes of Diwaunydd. Guide needed in misty weather.]

The rly. here quits the Lledr valley and buries itself in a *Tunnel* nearly 3 m. long, blasted in the slate-rock, and emerges near the slate quarries of Pant yr Afon.

12½ m. *Blaenau Festiniog Stat.*, about 4 m. from the village of Festiniog (see Rte. 20), and close to *Diffwys Stat.* of the Toy Rly. to Tan-y-Bwlch and Tremadoc (*Inns*: N. Western Hotel, close to Stat.; Queen's H.). See Route 20.

A short line is carried across the summit of the vale of the Dwyryd, commanding a sweeping view down it, to

4 m. *Festiniog Village Stat.* (see Rte. 20).

ROUTE 13.

BETTWS-Y-COED TO CORWEN, BY PENTREVOELAS.

22 m. This is a part of Telford's great Holyhead road, now deserted for the railway. For the first 3 m. the scenery is splendid, the intermediate distance is over bare, treeless table-land, which improves only on nearing Corwen. Quitting Bettws-y-Coed (Rte. 13) the road crosses the Waterloo Bridge of one iron arch, built in the year of Waterloo. The scenery at first is on the highest scale of beauty, and the traveller should stop on his way by all means to see the Fairy Glen, the Falls of the Conwy and Machno, and the

junction of those 2 rivers, if he has not visited them from Bettws (see Rte. 12).

The first part of the road runs up the Vale of the Conwy; along a continuous ascent. [1 m. l. of Waterloo Bridge, on the high ground, is *Capel Garmon*, in which parish, on the farm of *Tyn-y-Coed*, are a *carnedd* and *cromlech*.]

The gorge of the Conwy, called *Fairy Glen*, is best approached by the lower road. rt. after crossing Waterloo Bridge, but it may also be reached by a footpath from the Holyhead road across the fields.

At the 2nd milestone the road to Penmachno turns rt., and immediately reaches a bridge, just below which are the very picturesque *Falls of the Conwy* (described in Rte. 12), a scene of great grandeur. Near this there is a noble view of interlacing rocky headlands and far-off ranges of hill beyond.

At 6 m. the road, having reached a high tableland, commanding distant views of the Snowdon range looking back, takes leave of the Conwy (which turns suddenly as it flows from the S.W.), and reaches,

7 m., *Pentrevoelas*—a small village more often resorted to by the angler than the tourist, as there is but little to detain any one. (*Inn*: Voelas Arms, good and comfortable.) *Voelas Hall*, the seat of Col. Wynne Finch, a handsome modern house of slate and red sandstone, contains some good pictures and local antiquities, inscribed stones. Near it are an earthwork, the site of the post of Castell Coch, and an upright inscribed stone, supposed to have been erected over the grave of Llewelyn ap Seisyllt, slain here in 1021. Three roads run in here—on the l. from Llanrwst, on the rt. from Festiniog through Yspytty Ivan (Rte. 21), and a little farther on l. from Denbigh.

From hence the road follows the course of the *Merddwr* (a small stream, flowing into the Conwy), on very high and bleak ground, to

9½ m. *Cerniogau*, which, although now a single farmhouse placed in the midst of desolate, unproductive highlands, was, previous to the introduction of the locomotive, an important hostelry and posting-house during the palmy days of coaching on the great Holyhead road. This is generally considered to be the highest ground on the whole of the route between London and Holyhead, and is the watershed between 2 great basins of the Conwy and Dee, into which the road soon begins to descend. [The ranges of hills which have accompanied the road to l. for the whole distance from Llanrwst are the *Mynydd Hiraethog*, a wild and bleak mountain-chain which intervenes between the Dee and its tributaries, and the Elwy and Aled. The character of the scenery is not such as will repay exploration, although the valleys on the other side are full of beauty. About 5 m. N. of *Pentrevoelas* is *Llyn Alwen*, a considerable sheet of water, in which the Alwen takes its rise. It is preserved by Col. Wynne Finch, of Voelas, and contains large pike and perch. About 2 m. farther is *Llyn Aled*, giving birth to the Aled.]

Notwithstanding the generally dreary aspect of the road, the views, looking back, of the Snowdon range which occasionally present themselves will compensate for much.

12½ m. *Cerrig-y-Drudion*, "The Stones of the Heroes," is a primitive Welsh village near a rocky elevation, from which probably it takes its name (*Inn*, Lion). The high road leaves the village on l., and passes 13 m. at some little distance on l. the eminence of *Penygaer*, a fortified post which tradition assigns to Ca-

ractacus. "After he had been routed by the Romans he retreated to this castle for safety, but was, with his whole family, betrayed to the enemy by Queen Cartismandua, and sent prisoner to Rome.

At 15 m. the road is joined by the picturesque little river *Geirw*, which flows joyously down to meet the Alwen.

16½ m. *Pont Glyn Diffwys*, to the right of the high road, a striking and romantic scene. A deep chasm is crossed by a bridge of one arch of 50 ft. span, springing from two sheer and sharp rocks, beneath which the river rushes over a series of rocky slopes. Borrow calls it "a kind of Devil's Bridge flung over the deep glen and its foaming water."

17½ m. l. the *Goat Inn*, rt. *Maes-mawr*, the beautifully-wooded seat of Mrs. Kerr, a little beyond which the *Geirw* joins the Alwen.

19 m. *Druid Inn*.

The road next passes *Rûg Park*.

21 m. on a road to Ruthin (Rte. 11), is *Rûg*, long the fine seat of the Vaughans, but on the death of Sir Robert Vaughan, it was bequeathed to the Hon. C. H. Wynn, 2nd son of Lord Newborough. It formed part of the property of Glyndwr, but on the forfeiture it passed into the hands of the Salusburys and the Vaughans like the rest. Owain's knife, fork, and dagger are still preserved here. Within the grounds of *Rûg* is a private *Chapel* of the Vaughan family, of the Jacobean type, bearing date 1637, and quaintly but handsomely decorated. The carving of the seats is good. At no great distance from it is a well, supposed to be *Ffynnon Sulien*. Between 2 and 3 m. to the N.W. of *Rûg* is the ch. of *Bettws Gwerfyl Goch*, which contains a very interesting screen.

22½ m. *Corwen* (Rte. 3).

ROUTE 14.

BANGOR TO TREMADOC, BY CAERNARVON AND AFONWEN.—LOND. AND N. WESTERN RAIL.—THE NANTLLE LAKES.

9 trains daily in ½ an hour to Caernarvon.

The line to Caernarvon diverges from the Chester and Holyhead Railway at

Menai Bridge Stat., 5 minutes' walk to the bridge (described Rte. 7) and ½ m. from the George Hotel. The rly. soon after leaving Bangor dives into a tunnel, from which it emerges near 3½ m. rt.

Treborrh Stat. is a few hundred yards from the *Tubular Bridge* (Rte. 7).

See rt. the entrance gate to *Taynol*, the finely-wooded demesne of G. Duff Assheton Smith, Esq., who inherited it from the late Mr. Thomas Assheton Smith, the noted sportsman, a large land-holder in this district, and the proprietor of the Llanberis slate-quarries.

4½ m. the rly. approaches close to the Menai Straits at

Port Dinorwic Stat. (i.e. the Port of the Northmen), a busy little harbour solely employed in the embarkation of the slates, which are brought from Llanberis by a rly. 7 m. in length. There is safe anchorage for about 120 vessels of 200 tons burthen. Here are *Moelydon*, and a little lower down *Porthamel*, the scene of the different "trajectus" of Suetonius, Agricola, and subsequently of Edward I.'s army (Rte. 7).

From this an excursion may be made to the Celtic remains of Dinas Dinorwic (4 m.).

6½ m. *Griffith's Crossing Stat.* On rt. the ch. of *Llanfair Isgaer*, close to the water's edge, and *Plas Llanfair*. On the opposite bank are the woods and mansion of *Plas Llanidan*, the estate of Lord Boston. [The turnpike-road from Bangor keeps close to the rly., but being on higher ground and free from the necessity of cuttings and tunnels, it commands more beautiful views of the Menai and Anglesey.]

9 m. **Caernarvon Junct. Stat.** (Pop. 10,258) (*Inns*: Royal Hotel, close to the station; Royal Sportsman, in the town; Castle; Prince of Wales). Independently of its own attractions, Caernarvon stands at the entrance of the Menai Straits and at the mouth of the *Seiont*, as it were, at the portals of the finest scenery in N. Wales, the very heart of which can be reached within a moderate walk, Snowdon itself being not more than 12 m. distant, ½ hour by rail to Llanberis. From the earliest times the metropolis of the Segontiaci, who were of such importance that Caesar received an embassy from them. *Caer Seiont*, near Llanbeblig, was subsequently occupied by Ostorius Scapula and Suetonius Paulinus, who, to keep their conquests from recapture, founded the camp of *Segontium*, which under the later Roman rule grew up into a city. The history of *Caer Seiont*, after the Romans left the country, is a series of savage raids and incursions, in which the town was repeatedly pillaged and burnt. In 1098 Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, endeavouring, though unsuccessfully, to bring the Principality under his power, fortified this place. About this date the people bestowed upon it the name of *Caer yn Arvon*, "the Fort in Arvon," or 'the stronghold on

Arvon's shore opposite Anglesey, a title which it has ever since maintained. The year 1284 saw the first visit of Edward I., and the commencement of the erection of the *Castle*, one of the most important fortresses in Wales. It was long the reputed birthplace of Edward II., the first Prince of Wales, in the Eagle Tower; but from diligent examinations of the public records, it has been satisfactorily established that Edward II. could not have been born in it, for the very good reason that this part of the castle was not then built. Though founded in 1284, or even 1283, and as legend says finished in one year, it was not really finished until 1322. Subsequently Caernarvon underwent 2 sieges by Owain Glyndwr in the 15th cent., and one by the Parliamentarians during the civil wars under Captain Swanby, who took and garrisoned the fortress (1646).

The Castle (4d. for admission) occupies nearly 3 acres of ground on the W. and N.W. of the town, on the rt. bank of the *Seiont*, and is in plan an irregular oblong, surrounded by high walls, surmounted at intervals by 13 polygonal towers, with light turrets rising from them. It is said to have been built partly from the materials of old Segontium, and partly with stone from Anglesey. The principal entrance or King's Gate faces the N. nearly opposite Castle-street, and is approached by a modern bridge over what was once the moat. Above this noble gateway, which is flanked by a tower on each side, and was defended by 4 portcullises, is a statue of Edward II.,* who completed the castle, dagger in hand, under a canopy. The interior was divided into 2 wards or Baileys, but, as the dividing wall or building has disappeared, it is chiefly marked

* See Mr. George Clark's 'Mediaeval Military Architecture of England,' Vol. I., 8vo., 1884.

by a change of level, which is highest on the E. side. The Great Hall, kitchen, and chapel have been swept away. The S.W. tower is now repaired, and fitted up for the town *Museum*. The W. portion contains the state apartments, which occupy the S.W. angle, overlooking the mouth of the Seiont. They are spacious, and lighted with good traceried windows. At the extreme W. is the famous *Eagle Tower*, which commands attention from its height and beauty. It has 3 slender angular turrets issuing from its top. It is the only one to the summit of which an ascent can be made, as the staircase has been safely repaired. It derives its name from mutilated figures of eagles on the battlements. A room, not 12 ft. long nor 8 broad, is shown in which Edward II. is supposed to have been born, though we have already seen that that fiction is quite dispelled. The Eagle Tower was probably built by Edward II. himself and finished in 1317, and the gateway, out of which he is said to have been exhibited by his mother Eleanor, 3 years later on, when he was of the mature age of 36. As at Beaumaris, galleries (in tolerable preservation) run through the thickness of the walls, which are pierced with loop-holes.

The view from the Eagle Tower is very fine. W. and N. are the Menai opening into a wide expanse of sea, and a large portion of the Anglesey coast with its sandbanks, its undulating hills, and white villages. On the S. the Seiont runs through a picturesque dingle, of which the one bank is covered with the woods of Coed-Helen, and the other is lined with long quays by the side of which numerous coasting-vessels are occupied in shipping the interminable rows of slates. To the W. rises Snowdonia in all its rugged variety, terminated by the steep cliffs of Yr Eifl and Carreg-y-Llam, which forms such a conspicuous

feature in all the Caernarvon views. At the foot lies the town, with its walls, its busy streets, and quays.

The tower on rt. of gateway is the Well Tower. The upper ward contains on l. the Dungeon Tower, probably the one "in which the stout-hearted William Prymno—author of '*Histriomastix*'—the persecuted alike of Churchman and Independent, of Laud and of Cromwell—was imprisoned."

The granary is at the N.E. corner, the Black Tower on the S. side, and between the two is a gateway known as the Queen's Gateway, on a platform raised above the rest of the castle, which originally led into the town by an elevated causeway and drawbridge. On the outside there is a very considerable drop, owing to the town-wall, upon an esplanade of which the gate opened, being swept away, together with the deep fosse below.

When viewed from the outside, the castle perhaps raises the expectations higher than are realised by a nearer examination, for, in spite of its elements of size and grandeur, it is but an empty carcase, and lacks the more interesting details of Beaumaris and Conway. The same architect was employed, viz. Henry de Elreton. The castle is Crown property, and was much repaired and strengthened in 1845 by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests under the architectural guidance of Mr. Salvin.

Passing N. between the Castle and the *County Hall*, the building with a portico, you reach *The Esplanade*, extending outside the Town-wall by the margin of the Straits, as far as the docks and pier. Pursuing this breezy and cheerful walk you pass the Town Chapel, forming part of the wall, and the *Guildhall*, rebuilt over a gateway in 1874.

The *Town Walls* were about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. in circumference, and extended from

the Eagle Tower (where 2 small posterns gave admittance) directly N. as far as a small turret called "Twr-y-gloch;" they then turned sharp round to the E. for a short distance, and again to the S., rejoining the castle near the Queen's Gate.

A large modern ch. has been erected near the *Rly. Stat.* In its main feature the town presents the straight arrangement of streets which bears that evident design always found in Edward I.'s towns.

The other buildings consist of the *North Wales Training Institution* for schoolmasters; the *Guildhall*, over the E. town gate; the *County Court-hall*, nearly opposite the castle entrance.

One of the finest views is obtained from the summit of *Twt Hill*, an eminence at the back of the Royal Hotel, from whence the tourist can study, as from a map, the external outlines of the hill country. Besides the esplanade before mentioned, there is also a timber-pier and a long slate-pier by the banks of the Seiont. Immense quantities of slates, as well as a considerable amount of copper, are brought down from the vale of *Nantlle* by *rly.*

The site of *Segontium* lies at Llanbeblig, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. outside the town on the Beddgelert road, which indeed runs right through it. Excavations at this spot brought to light a Roman well or cloaca, where the vicarage now stands: also portions of a street and hypocaust, together with numerous coins of the reigns of Domitian, Maximus, Aurelian, Constantine, and Tetricus. The walls are in tolerable preservation on 2 sides, about 10 ft. in height and 6 in thickness. Through them ran the causeway of Helen or "Sarn Helen," which led to the fortified post of *Dinas Dinlle*. The excavations are now filled up, and the visitor will have some difficulty in

tracing the external features of the defences. The total area of the station was about 7 acres. Many of the places in the vicinity bear the name of Helen, such as Bryn Helen, Sarn Helen, Ffynnon Helen, Coed Helen, &c. They were so called in honour of the Princess Helena, daughter of Octavius, the Duke of Cornwall, and wife of Maximus, first-cousin of Constantine, who was born at Segontium.

The old historic sites (so called Druidic) on the opposite shore of Mona, near Llanidan, are described in Rte. 7, and may be visited by ferryboat crossing the Strait.

Distances.—Bangor by road, 9 m., by rail, 9; Llanberis, 10; Snowdon, 12; Capel Curig, 18; Pwllheli, 20; Tremadoc, 20; Beddgelert, 13; Pont Aberglaslyn, $14\frac{1}{2}$; Clynnog, 10; Llyn Cwellyn, 7; Bettws Garmon, 5; Yr Eif, 14; Tubular Bridge, 10; Beaumaris, 13; Drws-y-Coed, 11; Menai Bridge, 8 m.

Conveyances.—Rail to Chester, Bettws-y-Coed, Llanberis, Afonwen Junctn. with the Cambrian Line, &c.; coaches to Capel Curig; to Beddgelert, Portmadoc. A steamer frequently makes excursions during the summer up the Menai, and sometimes as far as Llandudno or Moelfre Bay. A steamer also plies betwixt the Quay and the Anglesey coast.

The Caernarvonshire branch of the Lond. and N. West. Rly., by which the tourist proceeds S., crosses, 1st, the Seiont, and 2nd, the Gwyrfa, before a halt is made at

$3\frac{1}{4}$ m. *Dinas Junct. Stat.* or the North Wales Narrow Gauge Rly.; a line branches off to the foot of Snowdon by *Bettws Garmon, Snowdon Ranger* (station for *Beddgelert*) see Rte. 19, and *Rhyd-du Stat.*

Pen-y-Groes Stat. Junct.

[Here a branch rly., diverges to the Nantlle Lakes, slate-quarries, and the pass of Drws-y-Coed. The views, as the tourist approaches the 2 lakes, are fine, but the valley and lakes are sadly defaced by enormous masses of slate rubbish and by the scars made on the hill-side by quarries. The valley is a narrow amphitheatre, occupied almost entirely by the *Llyniau Nantlle*, two beautiful lakes, along the N. side of which the road and rly. are carried. The hills on either side, but more particularly on the S., are grand and precipitous, where the escarpments of Llwyd Mawr terminate in the black slaty cliffs of Craig Cwm Dulyn and Craig Cwm Silyn. From the W. end of the lakes, Snowdon is seen closing the pass, in one of its most beautiful aspects—a scene well known from the celebrated picture of Wilson, which was taken from a spot called Dolbebin, a little to the rt. *Nantlle* (9 m. from Caernarvon) is a quarrying and mining district, the scenery of which is undoubtedly marred by the heaps of rubbish, the smoke issuing from the chimneys of the slate-works and the cottages of the workmen, of which there are a goodly number. Nothing, however, can spoil the cliffs of *Drws-y-Coed*, “the door of the wood,” which overhang the pass, as if to forbid farther progress. A fair road skirts the northern side of the gap, until the head of the pass is reached at Bwlch-y-felin, directly in front of which Snowdon rises with outstretched arms in all its magnificence. On crossing the head of the pass, Llyn Cwellyn, noted for its char, and the source of the river Gwyrfaï, is opened out on the l.; on rt. is *Llyn-y-Gader*, a weird-looking lake, in the midst of desolate moors. The road ascends, passing copper mines under Y Garn, until it reaches a height of 750 feet above sea-level. In descending the

opposite slope, see close to the road the little *Llyn Dywarchen*, which once attained a celebrity far beyond its deserts for possessing a floating island, which, however, in reality, is nothing more than an erratic piece of turbary, whence its name, i.e. “the pool of the sod.” A little further on the road joins at *Pont-Rhyd-du* (Rte. 19) the Caernarvon and Beddgelert road.

3 m. N. of Nantlle rises the buttress of Snowdon, called *Moel-y-Trifaen*, near the summit of which is an old *sea-beach* containing marine shells of Arctic type, at a height of 1350 ft. above the sea.]

From Pen-y-Groes Stat. it is 6 m. to the fine ch. of Clynnog (Rte. 15).

From Pen-y-Groes the line keeps due S., passing the village of *Llanllyfni*. A long incline is now ascended, skirting the western slopes of Llwyd Mawr, and the rly. then descends the valley of the Dwyfach to

11 m. *Brynker Stat.* for Moelfra Slate Quarry. On the rt. are the noble masses of Bwlchmawr and Gyrn-ddu.

16 m. *Chwillog Stat.*, to l. of which is Gwynfryn, the seat of H. J. Ellis Nanney, Esq., and the village of Llanystumdwy, charmingly placed on the border of the Dwyfawr (Rte. 24).

17 m. *AFONWEN JUNCT.* Hence a branch line, keeping near the sea-shore, runs by Abererch to

21½ m. *Pwllheli*, 4 m. W. (Rte. 15).

The *Cambrian Railway* is continued from Afonwen by Criccieth, 4 m., and to

Tremadoc, Harlech, and Barmouth (Rte. 24).

ROUTE 15.

CAERNARVON TO PWLLHELI,
BY CLYNNOG.—ROAD. 20 m.

The Rly. train may be taken as far as Pen-y-Groes stat., whence it is a pleasant walk of 5 m. to Clynnog.

Soon after quitting Caernarvon, the road to Pwllheli crosses ($\frac{3}{4}$ m.) the Seiont, which flows through a very picturesque dingle. Rt. on the coast, at the extreme point is *Belan*, a miniature fort and bathing-place of Lord Newborough, guarding the entrance of the Menai, and adapted for a summer bathing retreat.

2 m. at *Pontnewydd* the road crosses the Gwyrfa, which issues some miles up from Llyn Cwellyn (Rte. 19). On t. is the ancient post of *Dinas Dinlle*. There are traces of several forts in this neighbourhood. From hence an interminably straight road leads to Clynnog, passing on l. *Glyn-lifon*, the magnificently wooded park of Lord Newborough, into whose family the estate came by marriage of the heiress of the Glynns with Thos. Wynn of Boduan. Its beauties, however, are screened from public view by a high wall. This long road may be circumvented by following the Nantlle road from Caernarvon, and turning off at Pen-y-Groes to the t. by a by-road to Pontllyfni.

5 m. rt. the restored ch. of *Glandwrog*. Overlooking the sea is *Dinas Dinlle*, a large station said to have been connected with Segonum. Although probably made use of by the Romans, it was evidently a British post, and is strongly fortified with a double range of

escarpments. Its seaward front has suffered considerably from the action of the waves.

7 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. the Llyfni is crossed near its mouth.

8 $\frac{1}{4}$ m. l. on rising ground is the cromlech of Penardd. The 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. of straight road are agreeably terminated by the pretty little village of

9 $\frac{1}{2}$ m., *Clynnog* (no tolerable Inn), whose fine old *Church* embosomed in trees (restored 1858), is cruciform, and a magnificent specimen of Late Perp., about the time of Henry VII. It consists of nave, chancel with sacristy, two transepts, and chapel, with a tower at the W. end, and a *Porch* surmounted by a muniment-room leading into the nave. The tower is 74 ft. high, of 3 stages, and supported by buttresses of 8 stages at each angle. The nave is entered from the porch by a flight of steps. It is 80 ft. long, and lighted by windows of 3 lights, of which the middle is ogee-headed. The chancel is separated from the nave by a beautifully carved *Rood-loft*, under which is a row of sedilia of carved oak. There is also a good carved timber roof. Inside the communion-rails on N. is an altar-tomb, and above it a mural monument (date 1609) representing an adult figure with several smaller ones kneeling. The sacristy to the N. of the chancel has a groined roof, and contains the chest of St. Beuno, formed out of a solid tree, for the reception of the offerings to the saint. Its solidity and triple locks have made St. Beuno's chest pass into a proverb. There are also a mural brass (date 1633) in the N. transept, and an altar-tomb, dividing a pew underneath the reading-desk, to Col. Twistleton, 1667, who, in the civil wars, took Sir John Owen prisoner. At the S.E. angle of the chancel a circular staircase leads to the roof and the roodloft. From the tower porch a passage runs S. to

St. Beuno's chapel, which is thus, to a certain degree, cut off from the ch. It has probably been erected on the site of a much more ancient building. It is lighted by windows of beautiful design. The first ch. was founded by St. Beuno in 616, in the time of Cadwallon, son of Cadvan, King of Wales, who gave the land for the purpose, receiving in return a golden sceptre worth 40 cows. A legend is connected with St. Beuno similar to that of St. Teilo related in the 'Liber Landavensis,' viz. that the saint was buried here.

The New Inn, at S.W. corner of the ch.-yard, is a very old house, probably coeval with the ch. The well of St. Beuno, a cursing well, like St. Eilian's, and a wishing or healing well like St. Winifred's, lies on the l. of the road, a little past the ch., but, like most of the once sacred wells, is neglected and uncared for. The ch. claims to be one of the finest in N. Wales. In a field overlooking the sea, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. to the W., is the *Bachwen* cromlech, noted for its cup marks.

The road from Clynnog soon begins to ascend, as it winds along the western slopes of the large conical blocks of mountain known as *Gyrn Ddu*, *Gyrn Goch*, and *Moel Penllechog*. These mountains are of the same group as *Yr Eifl*, or, as they are commonly called, *The Rivals*, which rise in such sudden abruptness on the rt.

13 $\frac{1}{4}$ m. the head of the pass is reached at the small village of *Llanaelhaiarn*, the ch. of St. Aelhaiarn, also possessed of a sacred well. Viewed from this spot, *Yr Eifl* presents a magnificent escarpment of frowning precipices, though on the S.W. and S. sides the ascent may be made with perfect ease.

[A path from *Llanaelhaiarn* on the rt. runs at the foot of the cliffs, and through the pass of *Bwlch-yr-Eifl*,

from which there is a lovely retrospective view of Clynnog, the coast and bay of Caernarvon. On rt. is the smaller Eifl, no great height above the pass, but fearfully precipitous on the seaward side. The accessories peculiar to the working of a copper-mine at the very head of the cliffs rather add than otherwise to the striking wildness of the scene. On the l. *Yr Eifl* par excellence rises abruptly to the height of 1868 ft., though on the E. side there is a lesser peak of only 1400 ft., which is the more interesting of the two, as it contains within its fastnesses, at about the distance of a mile and a half from *Llanaelhaiarn*, the early fortified town of *Tre'r Ceiri* (h. c. "the town of fortresses") one of the most perfect and interesting examples to be found in the whole county. To ascend this mountain follow the high road to Nevin for a mile and a half, and then strike off to the l. up the slope, until reaching a narrow green pathway. A modern wall of loose stones is the only difficulty to be surmounted. The configuration of the town follows that of the mountain. "It consists of several groups of cells or 'cyttiau,' surrounded by a wall enclosing upwards of 5 acres, being more than 300 yards from E. to W. The inner wall, which is very perfect, is in many places 15 ft. high, and in some 16 ft. broad, and has a parapet and walk upon it. There are 9 groups of cells of various forms—round, oval, oblong, square, and in some instances a combination of hexagonal chambers leading to a circular one." —*Arch. Cambr.** At the N. end is a high artificial mound, probably designed for a look-out post. The entrances, three in number, are on the western and weakest side. *Tre'r Ceiri* may have been a vast storehouse for the plunder gathered from the mainland by its seafaring occu-

* 1855, p. 256. See also Vol. for 1871.

pants, or a last refuge of the Gael against the invading Cymry. History is utterly silent respecting this important post—at all events a negative proof of its immense antiquity. The view over the promontory of *Lleyn* to the S.W. is very fine, the whole outline of the coast, with its various cliffs and bays, being spread out as in a map. The conical hills rising abruptly in the centre are *Carn Boduan* and *Carn Madryn*. More to the S. are the little port of *Pwllheli* and *St. Tudwal's* road, opposite to which is the coast of *Cardigan Bay*, with the *Merionethshire* hills in the background. For grandeur, and at the same time for a certain peculiar wildness, the view from *Yr Eifl* has not its equal. There is a tradition current that these mountains are magnetic, from which fact they have obtained the name of *Llithfaen*, or “stone-attracting,” and masters of vessels are careful not to approach too near the coast, in consequence of the effect that they believe to be exerted on their compasses. The fact probably is that there is a strong under-current setting in all along this coast, which is dangerous to vessels, and very apt to lead them out of their course. The path through the pass is carried at the head of a wonderfully precipitous ravine, shut in by the sea on one side, and on the others by walls of mountain, forming the most complete picture of isolation that it is possible to imagine.

This hollow of *Vortigern*, or *Nant Gwytheryn*, is said to have been the last resting-place of that British king, “who fled hither to escape the rage of his subjects, excited by his inviting the Saxons into Britain,” and found the spells of *Merlin* and other enchanters impotent to save him from divine vengeance. A small homestead or two are the only signs of life in this secluded glen.

Further S. is *Carreg y Llam*, the

rock of the leap, overhanging the sea in one tremendous precipice, of such height that even in the views from *Caernarvon* this rock is plainly visible. Hereupon is fabled to have been built the castle of *Vortigern*, destroyed in one night by lightning. There is said to be a cave at the foot of it, and it is a great resort of seabirds, who add their discordant cries to the roaring of the waves. From hence the pedestrian must strike inland until he gains a rough road which runs past the solitary little mountain ch. of *Pistyll*, leading to *Nevin*. There is an important quarry on the rocks near *Pistyll*, from which quantities of stone are sent by sea to London. The distance from *Llanaelhaiarn* to the little town of *Nevin* by this route is about 7 m.]

From the top of the pass a long descent leads through an uninteresting country, passing the conical eminence of *Carn Pentyrch* and the village of *Llangybi*, where there is a mineral well, to

20 m. *Pwllheli Stat.*—pronounce *Poolth-eli* (*Inns*: Tower; Crown; Whitehall), a brisk little corporate town and seaport of some 3242. Inhab., doing a good deal of business, notwithstanding its out-of-the-way situation. It is, however, the principal emporium for a very large district extending to the extremity of *Lleyn*, besides possessing some lesser advantages, such as a remarkable profusion of fish, especially shell-fish, and facilities for bathing, which, as far as regards clear water and a fine beach of 4 m. long, are unsurpassed. It is, moreover, one of the cheapest watering-places in Great Britain. At the mouth of the port is the picturesque *Gimlet Rock* or *Carreg-y-Rimbill*, and large embankments have been made at a considerable expense to protect the harbour from encroachment of the sea. The town itself presents nothing

of interest, but magnificent views of the Merionethshire coast are obtained from the heights above *Deneio*, at back of the town, where the parish ch. is situated. The walk may be extended to *Llanor*, 2 m. N., near which, at *Penprys*, where there are some inscribed stones of the 6th century.

Distances.—Caernarvon, 20 m.; Criccieth, 8; Nevin, 7; Aberdaron, 20; Clynnog, 10½; Yr Eifl, 7; Portmadoc, 14; Edeyrn, 8; Porth Dinlleyn, 8 m.

A coach daily (except Sundays) to Nevin and Aberdaron (Rte. 16).

For Bardsey Island, see Rte. 16.

ROUTE 16.

PWLLHELI TO BARDSEY ISLAND, BY NEVIN AND ABERDARON.

An interesting excursion may be made to Nevin, and from thence through the promontory to Aberdaron, returning by the coast to Pwllheli, the distance being about 36 m.

At times a *Steamer* makes the voyage from Portmadoc to Bardsey Island, and in *fine weather* it is a very agreeable trip, from the lovely views commanded of the picturesque coast, the grand range of Snowdon, combined with the Castle of Criccieth, the Gimlet Rock, Pwllheli, &c.

The road passes 1½ m. l. of *Bodegroes*; rt. 1 m. is *Llanor*, with its inscribed stones. 3 m. rt. is *Bodvel Hall*, an old mansion-house belonging to G. W. Duff Assheton Smith, Esq., interesting as being

the birthplace of Mrs. Thrale, the wife of Piozzi, and friend of Dr. Johnson, who visited the place with her, 1774, and found it decayed, and the 2 churches, which were in Thrale's gift, neglected and unpaved. 4 m. the village of *Boduan*. *Boduan Hall* is one of Lord Newborough's seats, situated just underneath *Carn Boduan*, which rises abruptly from the plain to a height of about 900 ft. It may be ascended for the sake of the view, which is finely panoramic; but if the tourist has ascended Yr Eifl hills, it is a needless toil. 6 m. the road turns sharply to the rt. to,

7 m., *Nevin*, a fishing-village, Pop. 2003, at the foot of *Carn Boduan* (*Inn*: Nanhoron Arms). Coach daily to and from Pwllheli. There is nothing worth seeing in it. The ch. has a singularly narrow tower, with a disproportionate ship for a weather-cock. 2 m. to the S.W. is *Porth Dinlleyn*, to which place a remarkably good road was constructed from Pwllheli many years ago, under the impression that Government was going to make a packet-station here. Telford's grand highway, and the Conway and Menai Bridges, put a stop to this. During the railway mania its claims were again urged against those of Holyhead as an Irish port. From hence a road runs S. through the village of Edeyrn, where it divides. The route to the l. offers the best scenery, passing close to the foot of *Carn Fadryn* or *Madryn*, the largest of the two conical mountains which are so conspicuous in the promontory. Nant Llaniestyn runs between the road and the mountain, formerly an important stronghold of the sons of Owain Gwynedd, to whom this portion of the country belonged. On the summit are still visible traces of cyttiau, so common in these early fortified posts.

7 m. from Porth Dinlleyn is *Sarn Melleyrn* (*Inn*: Penrhyn Arms,

comfortable, the best quarters from which the pedestrian can explore the W. part of the promontory; limited, but clean), a hamlet at which several roads meet, and, amongst others, the second road from Edeyrn, which passes the village of Tudweiliog. On Mynydd Cefn Amwlch is a very perfect cromlech with a peculiarly peak-shaped superincumbent stone. About 1 m. to the S.W. is the fine triple-aisled Church of Llangwnadle, which contains a good sculptured font. From Mellteyrn to Aberdaron (6 m.) the road traverses the dreary common of Rhos Hirwaun, and by the side of Mynydd Ystum, on which is a large circular camp called *Castell Odo*.

14 m. *Aberdaron* (Pop. 1247)—*Inn*: Ship (poor)—is a remote little village on the sea-coast, very near the most S. extremity of Lley, 15½ m. from Pwllheli (stat.), from which town an omnibus runs daily (except Sundays). It was a frequented halting-place for pilgrims bound for Bardsey, while the abbey existed. The old Church, which was for a long time in such neglect that the waves were actually eating away the walls, was restored by Mr. Kennedy, and consists of N. and S. aisles, of which the N., the oldest, is entered by a circular-headed doorway. It has a good Perp. E. window, with ogee-headed lights. It is now used as a school. A modern pseudo-Norman building was erected; the parishioners, however, disliking the innovation, subscribed to have the old one restored. The parish is large, and contains several antiquities—as *Castell Odo*; the old mansion of *Bodurda*, of the time of Charles I.; and traces of the ancient chapel of *Eglwys Fair*, just on the head of Braich-y-pwll, the extreme point of Lley, and the Canganum Promontorium of Ptolemy. Here, as Pennant was told, is *Efynnon Fair*, our Lady's

well, a freshwater spring with sacred properties, below high-water mark.

This district, though eminently wild and primitive, is worth visiting, if it is only for the coast scenery, which is grand, especially on the S. and W. of the promontory. At *Parwyd*, opposite Bardsey, the cliffs descend to the water in a sheer precipice of 600 ft.

Few of the tourists who penetrate Lley have time or courage to visit *Bardsey* Island, which lies 7 m. from Aberdaron, separated by a tidal current of such rapidity and force, that the island is called in Welsh *Ynys Enlli*, or the Isle of the Eddy. The difficulties of making the passage are often insuperable, and cases have been known of travellers, who have succeeded in making the island, being detained there for a considerable time, much against their will. A boat (the charge about 15s.) can be obtained by those who are determined to make the trip at Aberdaron or Porthmeudwy. An occasional steamer (see above) may obviate these difficulties.

The island is about 2 m. in length, and rises very precipitously on the N.E. face. Giraldus Cambrensis thus mentions it:—"Beyond Llyn there is a small island inhabited by religious monks called *Cælibes* or *Colidei* (Culdees?). This island, either from the wholesomeness of its climate, owing to its vicinity to Ireland, or rather from some miracle obtained by the merits of the saints, has this wonderful peculiarity that the oldest people die first, because diseases are uncommon, and scarcely any die except from extreme old age. Its name is *Eneli* in Welsh, and *Berdesey* in the Saxon language; and many bodies of saints are said to be buried there."

The present inhabitants number about 84, and obtain their living mainly by fishing. They pay a rental to Lord Newborough, but beyond

How Wynn

that recognize no government but their own, "cultivating a spirit of mutual independence, and electing from themselves a king, who also goes through the duties of minister."

At the S. end of the island is a *Lighthouse*, from whence on a clear day St. David's Head is visible at a distance of 62 m. ~~Although there is no ch. nor any religious establishment now,~~ Bardsey was famous in former times for its abbey of St. Mary, of which a portion is still left. It was founded in 516 by Cadvan, King of N. Wales, and speedily attracted numbers of devotees, to the number it is said of 20,000 saints, "to whom it afforded an asylum during life, and after death graves to as many of their bodies. Well, therefore, it might be called *Insula Sanctorum*, the Isle of Saints; but, with Dr. Fuller, I must observe that it would be much more facile to find graves in Bardsey for so many saints, than saints for so many graves."—*Pennant*. The only remains of this once extensive building is a portion of a tower of the 13th cent.

On the return to Pwllheli the coast-road to the S. should be followed, passing the villages of *Llanfaelrhys* and *Rhiw*, which is situated on high rugged ground overlooking the sweep of *Porth Nigel*, or Hell's Mouth, a bay much dreaded by mariners on account of certain currents, and, as *Pennant* expresses it, the Scylla to the Charybdis of Sarn Badrig, whose extremity lies nearly opposite. The 'Transit' was wrecked on the E. side of the bay in 1839. The parish of *Llanengan*, in which this occurred, is remarkable for its fine *Church* of the early part of the 16th cent. Having fallen into decay, like many of its neighbours, it was restored by Mr. Kennedy. It contains a very richly-carved *Roodscreen* running across the aisles, which for ornamentation of design is unsurpassed in

Wales. The bells are said to have been brought from Bardsey.

The scenery in the neighbourhood is well worth exploring, particularly at the headland of *Trwyn-cilan*. There are a number of camps and fortified posts allround. *Nanhoron*, on rt. of road, is the seat of F. Lloyd Edwards, Esq., very romantically situated at the entrance of the dingle through which the *Bodglas* flows. 1½ m. from *Llanengan* is *Abersoch*, a small fishing harbour. From hence the road skirts the bay, passing rt. *Llanbedrog*, to

Pwllheli, in Rte. 15.

ROUTE 17.

CAERNARVON TO CAPEL CURIG, BY LLANBERIS.—ASCENT OF SNOWDON.—PASS OF LLANBERIS TO GORPHWYSFA.

Railway to Llanberis, 12 m.; 7 trains daily, in ½ an hour; thence *Coaches*, &c., to Capel Curig.

From the train, as you quit Caernarvon, you have a fine view of the castle; and on leaving the Cambrian Rly. rt., which leads to Barmouth you ascend the vale of the Seiont.

3½ m. *Pontrythalt Stat.* The rly is carried through and among rock and cliffs partly rounded by glaciation, which has left many moraine heaps behind.

4 m., a road 1. 1½ m. leads to th



SNOWDON

SURROUNDING VALLEYS.
AND PATHS LEADING TO THE TOP.

Scale of English Miles.

early fortified post of *Dinas Dinorwic*, of an oval shape, and strengthened with a triple ditch. On rt. is *Bryn Bras*, the castellated modern seat of Wm. Dew, Esq. Overhanging the road is *Caer Carreg-y-fran*, which is easily accessible from

Cwm-y-glo-Stat., from which there is said to have been a paved way to *Llys Dinorwic*. "A strong wall of cyclopean masonry was carried along the edge of the cliff; the entrance faced to the W., and had a projecting bastion on each side. The railroad now runs close alongside of the Seiont, which, issuing from *Llyn Padarn*, flows into the Menai at Caernarvon. On the other side of it is a Railway, which conveys the slates from *Llanberis* quarries to Port Dinorwic (Rte. 14), 7 m.

5½ m. the mountains, which have been gradually drawing nearer, now come down close to the road, leaving but a small space between them and the W. shore of *Llyn Padarn*. They are, in fact, the spurs of Snowdon, which is seen piercing the sky with its sharp peak. On rt. are the slate-quarries of *Glyn*, the property of Lord Newborough.

12 m. **Llanberis Terminus.** *Inns:* Victoria, a large but comfortable house (60 beds) in a fine position; nice garden; near the mouth of the glen, up which runs the path to Snowdon. The *Padarn Villa Hotel*, too, is a good house, as are also the *Castle* and *Llyn Peris Hotels*, the latter overlooking the lake of that name.

Llanberis is a village of 2000 Inhab., great part of whom work in the slate quarries, but it includes many handsome villas scattered along the shores of Lakes *Padarn* and *Peris*, and lying at the N. foot of Snowdon. It has an old *Church* ($\frac{3}{4}$ m. from the stat.) and a new one, 3 or 4 chapels, and a *Hospital* for quarry accidents.

Llyn Padarn, so named after the saint *Padarn* or *Paternus*, who it is said had a cell in these parts, is the lowest and largest of the 2 lakes that fill up the valley. It is about 1½ m. in length, though of moderate breadth. It is inferior in beauty to *Llyn Peris*, which is considerably smaller, but is surrounded by grand hills emanating from *Moel Eilio* and the *Elidyrs*, which descend to the very brink of the water. A broad expanse of green meadow intervenes between the 2 lakes, which are, however, connected by a stream, crossed by a bridge and road leading to the quarries, and the hospital for quarrymen.

On a rocky eminence at the back of the *Victoria Hotel*, and overlooking the lower end of *Llyn Peris*, rises the round tower of *Dolbadarn*, a very striking feature in the scenery of the valley from its isolated and commanding position. It is a remnant of a castle known to have been possessed by *Maelgwn Gwynedd* in the 6th cent. For 23 years it was the prison-house of *Owen Goch*, immured here by his brother *Llewelyn ap Iorwerth*, as a punishment for rebellion; and in the time of Edward I. it sustained a siege at the hands of the Earl of Pembroke, when garrisoned by *Dafydd*, brother of *Llewelyn ap Gruffydd*. It was designed to defend the pass into the interior of Snowdonia, and from its position at the mouth of the pass, it played an important part in defending the mountain districts, which were guarded on the other sides by *Caernarvon*, *Dolwyddelan*, *Criccieth*, and *Harlech*. It is a cylindrical tower of 3 stages, entered on the 2nd stage by a stair against the wall outside. It is of rude masonry, but from its wall stair, pointed arch, and general proportions, may be pronounced to be of E. E. or Dec. date. It has long

been in ruins, the tower only being left in Leland's time.

The hills on the opposite side of the lake are disfigured—indeed, utterly defaced—by the *Slate-quarries of Dinorwic*, which, next to those at Penrhyn, are the largest and most important in Wales, employing nearly 3000 men. They are quarried out of the same formation—nay, out of the very same hill—whose opposite end is hollowed out by the Penrhyn quarries; and in due time the two will meet, and the whole mountain will have been cut away like a plum-cake. The Llanberis quarries were commenced by the late Mr. Assheton Smith, of Vaenol, and are now the property of his heirs. "The rock in these quarries has been worked to the depth of 300 perpendicular feet. The hillside is divided by 15 or 20 stages or steps, and the stranger's attention is soon arrested by the constant rattle of slates sliding down the tips, mingled with the clang of the pick, interrupted from time to time by the loud explosions of blasting. A horn is blown to give warning of the blasts, when the men shelter themselves in huts and holes. The blast brings down lumps of rock 50 to 100 tons in weight, which are broken up and distributed among the workmen in sheds, where they are split and fashioned by simple tools. Strangers, who if left to themselves would run risks from the explosion, are conducted by a guide through them. The roofing slates are split and dressed in numerous sheds, while the slabs are sawn and ground at powerful steam and water mills in the neighbourhood. Convenient tramways, about 23 m. in extent, are laid along the various workings and quarry banks; upon these small waggons are run, into which the slates and slabs are loaded and taken to the inclines, whence they are let down by wire ropes to the rly. The

slates are transported from the quarry to the place of shipment, Port Dinorwic, by a separate railway skirting the N. shore of the lakes and river Seiont. It is a singular sight to watch the quarrymen who live along the line of rly. returning home by the aid of 30 velocipedes, which are placed on the rly. and worked by the men themselves by means of a windlass. Each velocipede carries 8 persons, and, proceeding in the direction of the port, deposits the labourer at the nearest point to his dwelling."—*Life of Assheton Smith*.

A path opposite the Victoria leads up a glen in $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the very pretty *Waterfall* of Ceunant Mawr, 60 ft. high. The ascent of Snowdon by this same path passes close to the fall. See Route 17A.

The original village of Llanberis is distant about 2 m. from rly. stat., nearer to the entrance of the pass, with mountains towering around. The *Church* is a little to the rt. of the road, and is a picturesque building. It retains only part of a Perp. edifice, the rest being modern. It has a good timber roof of the 15th cent., and bits of screen work. The ch. has been well restored.

Geology.

The rocks on both sides of Llanberis and Dolbadarn exhibit in the faces of the cliffs flexures of the oldest strata, viz. Cambrian rocks, the equivalents of the Longmynd. "Containing the best roofing-slates in the world, and subordinate courses of grit, with rocks of igneous origin intermixed, they are seen to fold over and plunge to the E.S.E., so as to pass under the great and massive succession of schists which constitute the distant heights of the Snowdon range. The unfossiliferous slaty rocks of Llanberis pass into the overlying strata, which, by their imbedded organic remains, are known

to be of Lower Silurian age.”—*Murchison's Siluria*.

Not less interesting are the frequent and clear signs of glacier action all through the valley. “The rocks when unweathered are round and mammillated, and their smooth surface sometimes grooved by ice.”

Excursions.—The first and chief of these is the **Ascent of Snowdon**, which may be made more easily from this than from any other point; the distance being about 5 m., requiring 2 to 3 hrs. up and less than 2 down. Guides, 7s., and ponies, 5s., may be hired at the Victoria and other Inns (see p. 116).

The Pass of Llanberis.—*Coaches* daily to Capel Curig, Bettws-y-Coed, and round Snowdon to Beddgelert and Caernarvon. The circuit, 40 m., is made in 8 to 10 hrs., stoppage included.

This is undoubtedly the most desolate and the grandest pass, as it is also the loftiest carriage-road in Wales. Leaving behind Llanberis and its lake, it enters the black defile separating the Glyder Fawr Mountain on l. from Snowdon on the rt. hand.

For nearly 4 m. the road is carried at the foot of precipitous mountains, which rise up on each side in cliffs some 2000 feet high. Stern black and rugged rocks bound the valley, those on the rt. being strewn with fragments fallen from the toppling crags above. A broad turnpike-road, as smooth as any in England, winds up with a gradual ascent for the convenience of tourists. [Nearly opposite the old ch. a path may be found striking steeply up the heights on the l., and leading over the shoulder of Glyder Fawr (rt.), to the little tarn *Llyn-y-Cwm*, whence there is a very steep descent by the side of the Devil's
[*N. Wales.*]

Kitchen to Llyn Idwal and Llyn Ogwen (Rte. 12A)].

At 11½ m. the road crosses the river at *Pont-y-Gromlech*, “where bosses of felspathic porphyry rise like little hills in the middle of the valley.” On l. is a large block of fallen stone misnamed a *Cromlech*. It was once called Ynys Hettws, or Hetty's Island, from the circumstance of an old woman of that name taking up her abode in the angles formed by the blocks. She occupied herself during the summer by tending sheep and milking cows.

[Opposite this spot rt. the deep ravine of *Cwm Glas* runs up into the very heart of Snowdon, terminating with the precipices of Crib-y-Ddysgyl. This was one of the most extensive glacier valleys, and many signs plainly betoken it to the observant eye, such as moraine heaps, boulders, and “roches moutonnées.” The pedestrian should ascend this *cwm*, for at the extreme end of it lies an upland valley declared by Professor Ramsay to be unmatched for wildness in all Wales, “bounded on 3 sides by tall cliffs and mountain peaks, in the midst of which lie 2 little deep, clear tarns, 2200 ft. above the sea, each in a perfect basin of rock, resembling on a small scale the Todten See and the lake behind the hotel of the Grimsel.” This valley is separated from the lower part of the *cwm* by a steep escarpment of rocks, some 800 ft. in height. From hence the pedestrian may climb the ridge of Crib-y-Ddysgyl, and so to the summit of Snowdon.]

Near the great Boulder stone the full grandeur of this pass develops itself, its character being wild desolation. The heights which bound it are nearly precipitous, dark or black, and almost herbless. Trees there

are none. A continuous ascent leads up to

12½ m. *Gorphwysfa*, "the resting-place," where a roadside *Inn*, with fair accommodation, and a group of cottages, at the axis of the watershed (1200 ft.), invites 5 minutes' rest. The view both before and behind is perfect for severe mountain landscape—not a tree, not a token of cultivation, but wild, bare, rocky peaks rising one above the other until they are lost in the clouds.

[Here the path turns off to ascend *Cwm Dyli* and *Snowdon* (p. 118), the route always taken by the guides from *Capel Curig*. The summit is about 3½ m. distant. No one should omit the short walk to *Llyn Llydaw* about 1½ m. (see *Rte. 17A*) in fine weather, even if they do not ascend *Snowdon*; from no point can a finer view of that mountain be had with less trouble. Glacier markings are plainly visible close to path going up *Cwm Dyli*.

Gorphwysfa, the summit of the Pass of *Llanberis*, is a good starting-point for the ascent of *Snowdon*, 5 m. For the first 2 m. there is a good car road, passing some deserted Copper-Mines, to the margin of *Llyn Llydaw*, whence the magnificent view of *Snowdon*, mentioned above, is obtained, for the sake of which alone it is worth while to walk or drive thus far, in clear weather. For the rest of the ascent see *Rte. 17A*.

From *Gorphwysfa* also the *Great Glyder* may be ascended. Its top commands the best near view of *Snowdon*.]

No sooner does the road descend than a view opens over the valley of *Nant-y-Gwryd*, at the end of which the enormous mass of *Moel Siabod* fills up the picture. To the rt. the

lovely valley of *Nant Gwynnant* expands, showing signs of softer beauties that are very gratifying to the eye after so much desolation.

14 m. *Pen-y-Gwryd Inn* (*Rte. 18*), 6 m. from rly. stat. at *Llanberis*, small and of no pretensions, but comfortable for those who do not require superfluous luxuries. It stands at the junction of the road from *Capel Curig* with that from *Beddgelert*. It is a capital station for fishermen in consequence of its proximity to the *Mymbyr* lakes, *Llyn Gwynant*, *Llyn Llydaw*, and several smaller ones. The host is a good guide to them all, as well as to the neighbouring mountains. The nearest lake is *Llyn Cwmffynnon*, about ¾ m. from the inn, at the foot of the *Glyder Fach*. Though small, the fishing in it is good, char having been introduced with success; a boat is kept on the lakes. There is also fishing in the *Gwryd*, the little river which runs down to the *Mymbyr* lakes. "The angler, fond of bottom fishing, may soon fill his basket by merely keeping out of sight of the quick-eyed trout, and begin his pursuit at less than 5 minutes' walk from the inn."—*Cliffe's Angler*.

Distances.—*Llanberis*, 6½ m.; *Capel Curig*, 4; *Snowdon*, 7½; *Beddgelert*, 8 m.

From *Pen-y-Gwryd* it is a gradual descent through the valley of *Nant-y-Gwryd*, to *Capel Curig*. The scenery is desolate and severe, unrelieved by foliage and cultivation, although every now and then a farmhouse gives the appearance of life; but the farms in these upland regions are very different to the snug, wooded homesteads of English counties, as the most valuable part of them consists in extensive mountain pasturage and sheepwalks. At the end of the valley lie the *Llyniau Mymbyr*, two fine sheets of water, situated close to

17½ m. **Capel Curig Hotel** (Royal), a comfortable Snowdonian resort, embosomed in almost the only trees in the district. These lakes, at one time full of fish, are now worth little to the angler, owing probably to the too free use of the net. One advantage possessed by this solitary Inn is the fine view it commands of Snowdon, which at favourable times is beautifully reflected from the surface of its cheerless lakes. It stands near the junction of the roads to Bangor (*Rte. 12A*), to Bettws-y-Coed, to Beddgelert, and to Llanberis. For the ascent of Snowdon see *Rte. 17A*. Capel Curig is a central and excellent station for exploring Nant Ffrancon, Carnedds Davydd and Llewelyn, the Glyders, Trifaen, Llyn Idwal, all of which are described in *Rte. 12A*.

One of the most extensive views in the whole district is obtained from *Moel Siabod*, which rises a little to the S. of Capel Curig to a height of 2870 ft. On the N. and W. it is easily ascended, as on these sides it is rounded and covered with smooth turf until near the summit, which is broken and rocky; but the E. face is grand and precipitous, with a crater-shaped escarpment, at the bottom of which lies the small tarn of Llyn-y-foel. It is easy to descend from the summit in a S.E. direction to Castle Dolwyddelan, and thence down the Lledr to Bettws-y-Coed.

Coaches.—Daily in summer to Bettws-y-Coed; to Bangor, by Nant Ffrancon; to Beddgelert and Caernarvon; to Llanberis.

ROUTE 17A.

ASCENT OF SNOWDON:—1. FROM LLANBERIS; 2. FROM BEDDGELEERT; 3. FROM LLYN CWELLYN AND THE SNOWDON RANGER; 4. FROM CAPEL CURIG (GORPHWYSFA). — THE SUMMIT. (SEE MAP.)

Snowdon, with the vast numbers of subordinate peaks and shoulders that belong to it, occupies a very considerable area, of which Llanrug, Bettws Garmon, Beddgelert, Nant Gwynnant, Capel Curig, and Llanberis may be taken as marking the outer limits. This, of course, will not include the district of Snowdonia generally so called, which extends from the Conwy to the Irish sea (*Introd.*, p. viii.), but merely that portion of Snowdon proper which is divided from the rest by some distinctive valley or pass. The area within these points may be roughly estimated at from 10 to 12 m. N. to S. by 6 m. E. to W. The principal attraction in this enormous block of mountain is, of course, *Moel-y-Wyddfa* ("the conspicuous summit"), the loftiest eminence in England and Wales, which towers up to the height of 3571 ft. above the level of the sea. A bird's-eye view looking down upon Snowdon would present somewhat the appearance of a starfish. From the central knot radiate 5 great arms enclosing deep combs, with lakes at their bottom, and sides rising like huge walls, very nearly precipitous. The different lines of ascent commence in these hollows, and gradually rise to and surmount the ridges connected with the summit, the steepest part of the ascent. Of these primary ridges the most northerly is (1) *Crib-y-*

Ddysgyl (the Toothed Dish), with the branch of *Crib Goch* to the E., and *Clogwyn Du'r Arddu*, a grand escarpment in itself, to the W.; while between these 2 last the *Llechog*, or *Llechwedd-y-Re* (the rapid ascent), slopes down towards Llanberis. Between the Clogwyn and Llechwedd is *Cwm Brwynog*, containing the tarn of Llyn Du'r Arddu. *Cwm Glas* lies between Crib Goch and Llechwedd, which is still further indented by the small supplementary valley of *Cwm Glas Bach*. The shoulder of Clogwyn Du'r Arddu is prolonged N.N.W. into a series of heights, such as *Moel-y-Cynghorion* and *Moel Goch*, which are terminated over Bettws Garmon by the bluff slopes of *Moel Eilio*. (2) The ridge of *Bwlch-y-Maen* runs S.S.W. for a short distance, and soon subdivides into (i.) the *Llechog*, just opposite Drws-y-Coed, and (ii.) *Bwlch-y-Llan*, which is terminated above Beddgelert by the lofty peaks of *Yr Aran*. Between Clogwyn du'r Arddu and Llechog lies the deep *Cwm Clogwyn*, holding in its bosom Llyn Glas, Llyn Coch, Llyn-y-Nadrodd, and, a little lower down, Llyn-ffynn on-gwâs. Between Llechog and Yr Aran lies *Cwm Craigog*, a valley of no great importance. (3) S.E. runs the ridge of *Bwlch-y-Saethau* (the pass of arrows), which does not subdivide, but is prolonged into the jagged edges of *Lliwedd*, overhanging Nant Gwynnant. Between it and Yr Aran is *Cwm-y-Llan*, a "corrie" of enormous depth; and on the N. side of Lliwedd is *Cwm Dyli*, the grandest of all the Snowdon valleys, containing at its highest end the small tarn of *Glaslyn*, and lower down *Llyn Llydaw*. These are the main physical features and divisions of the Snowdon mountains, which every tourist will find it to his account to master, as a knowledge of the geography of the different ranges adds immensely to the pleasures of the ascent. See the Map.

The occasions are rare on which the visitor obtains a complete *Panoramic* view from the top.* For the most part he has to content himself with peeps and glimpses caught through openings of the drifting clouds, and very often when the mist is stagnant around the summit he is denied even this, and is perhaps wet through by the rain. It is at all times very cold on the top, so that wrappers should be provided, especially for ladies.

All the upward tracks from Llanberis, Llyn Cwellyn, Beddgelert, and Capel Curig (or Gorphwysfa), are so broadly and plainly marked, that in clear weather any person of moderate experience in mountains could easily find his way up without a guide; but if there is the slightest chance of a fog (and fogs often come on in the most sudden and inexplicable manner) the tourist should not start unattended, more particularly if it is the first time that he has ascended. By the same rule no night ascent should be made without a guide, as fatal accidents have happened by neglecting this precaution. There is nothing about the excursion calling for any but moderate exertion, care, and nerve, which are requisites for everybody visiting any mountain district.

During summer *Coaches* run daily, making the *tour of Snowdon*, from Caernarvon to Beddgelert, Pen-y-Gwryd, Gorphwysfa, and Llanberis, a circuit of 35 miles.

1. *The Ascent from Llanberis* (about 5 m.) is the easiest, most accessible, and consequently the most frequented of any, several hundred excursionists having been known to go up in one day. Guides and ponies may be en-

* A *Panorama*, showing the names and altitudes of all the principal mountains as seen from the summit of Snowdon, is published by W. J. Adams, 59, Fleet Street, London, price 1s. 6d. It will be found a useful companion on this excursion.

gaged at the hotel. The charge for the guide is 7s., and 5s. for pony, a high price considering the distance. An additional charge of 3s. is made if the tourist descend by a different route. The pathway up the mountain is well marked throughout, and in summer is crowded with climbers. It opens directly opposite the Victoria Hotel, in the gully or glen which encloses the pretty Waterfall of Ceunant Mawr, 60 ft. high, which is passed, on rt., about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the hotel. Turning away from the Waterfall, the path runs S.E. along the slope of Llechog or Llechwedd, overlooking *Cwm Brwynog*, one of the largest, though least grand, of the 5 great glacier valleys that run down from Moel-y-Wyddfa. In this glen is an ancient stone (Maendu-yr-Arddu), concerning which a tradition was current that any person who slept a night upon it would awake either a poet or a madman. The stone, computed by Ramsay to weigh 5000 tons, is about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile N. of the Llyn Du'r Arddu.

At the head of *Cwm Brwynog* is the small *Llyn* just named, lying at the foot of the tremendous cliffs of *Clogwyn Du'r Arddu*. As the tourist mounts *Llechog*, lovely views open up of the *Llanberis* lake, and of the country down to *Caernarvon*. At the summit of this shoulder a path turns off to the rt. to a copper-mine.

From hence the path becomes steep and zigzag. Ere long the narrow ridge of *Crib-y-Ddysgyl* is reached, near the point where the *Capel Curig* (*Gorphwysfa*) route comes in.

[By a short detour to the l. here, and by ascending 100 ft. or so, the traveller may obtain a peep down into the terrific glen of *Cwm Glas*, together with extensive views of the *Glyders*, *Mynydd Mawr*, and a large expanse of country.]

A sharp pull speedily lands the visitor at the topmost peak of *Moel-y-Wyddfa*.

2. *The Ascent from Beddgelert* involves an uphill walk along the turnpike-road to *Caernarvon* (Rte. 19) for 3 m., until the tourist reaches *Pitt's Head*. The whole distance is 6 m., and the charge for the guide is 7s., but to descend on the other side 10s. The roadside walk up the valley of the *Colwyn*, which brawls by the side of the road, is pleasant enough, but is felt by most tourists to be rather a nuisance, and to fatigue one somewhat before commencing the real ascent. At times the stage-coach or omnibus may give them a lift.

Turn off to the rt. at the farmhouse of *Efridd Uchaf*, through which the track leads up broken and rough ground, though not very steep. The way soon becomes steep up the *Llechog*, and the grand scenery spread out often tempts the traveller to halt.

Moel Hebog, *Mynydd Mawr*, *Llyn Cwellyn*, and *Moel Eilio* are the principal objects in front, while through the pass of *Nantlle* the sun gleams on the sea at *Clynnog*. To the rt. *Anglesey* and *Caernarvon* are visible, and to the l. the eye wanders over *Tremadoc* and the coast of *Harlech*. Nearing the summit of *Llechog*, we suddenly look over the fearful cliffs of *Cwm Clogwyn*, a deep caldron or corrie, running N.W., and containing several tarns, which can be visited in the route from *Llyn Cwellyn*. At the top of *Llechog* we suddenly emerge upon the very narrow and prolonged ridge of *Bulch-y-Maen*, or, as it is called by some, *Clawdd Coch*, the most exposed and critical point in the ascent of *Snowdon*—as for a few yards there is no fence or holding on either hand. It is about 8 ft. in breadth, and nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ m. in length, and divides *Cwm Clogwyn* and *Cwm Llan*, the cliffs of which descend on each side in fearful precipices. Many are the accounts and experiences of this famous pass. *Bingley* declares, "that if a person held a large stone

in each hand, and let them both fall at once, each would roll above a quarter of a mile, and thus, when they stopped, would be more than half a mile asunder." The close proximity of these 2 immense gulfs is enough to make one look to one's steps with no ordinary circumspectness. The path is, however, quite safe, and ladies may ride along it. Even in times of fog this spot is very grand—to see the whirlpools of vapour on both sides boiling and seething, until a gust of wind suddenly makes a great gap, so as to allow the bottom of the *cwm* to be visible: but it is only for a moment; for before the eye has had time to fathom the depth and understand it, it is closed up, to open elsewhere. It seems as if you were at sea, with the clouds for ocean.

"A vast mist enveloped the whole circuit of the mountain. The prospect down was horrible. It gave an idea of numbers of abysses concealed by a thick smoke furiously circulating round us. Very often a gust of wind formed an opening in one place, at others in many; at once exhibiting a most strange and perplexing sight of water, fields, rocks, and chasms, in 50 different places."—*Pennant*.

The rapidity with which the fogs close up round the peaks and glacier valleys of Snowdon is a singular feature; for even on a fine clear day the summit will suddenly become enveloped: and it is this peculiarity which demands such care on the part of the tourist.

3. *The Ascent from Llyn Cwellyn or Snowdon Ranger*. Although this is not the grandest approach to Snowdon top, the opening of a branch rly. from Dinas Stat. (Rte. 19) to Rhyddu Stat., beyond the Ranger Inn, has caused it to be much frequented (see Rte. 19). The distance is 4 m.

The *Snowdon Ranger* is a small solitary Inn near the side of Llyn

Cwellyn, 4 m. from the top. The path, a former copper-mine track, is carried over a large extent of somewhat swampy ground, along the southern slope of Moel-y-Cynghorion (Hill of Council). From hence it gradually ascends to Bwlch-cwm-Brwynog, and gains the summit of the cliffs of Clogwyn Du'r Arddu. In its course it passes on rt. a large erect stone, or *Maenbras*, which, though it appears as if it had been set up by design, is nothing more than an enormous erratic block brought down by the glacial drift. By this route the deep hollow of Cwm-y-Clogwyn is passed on the rt. with its 4 small lakelets—*Llyn Glas* (Blue Lake), *Llyn Coch* (Red Lake), *Llyn-y-Nadrodd* (Lake of Adders), and *Llyn Ffynnon-Gwâs*, or Servant's Lake, so called from a farm-servant having been drowned in it while washing sheep. *Llyn-y-Nadrodd* contains no fish, probably from the existence of some mineral poison, but the others have trout, which are very shy and difficult to catch.

4. *The Ascent from Gorphwysfa*, (Rte. 17) $4\frac{1}{2}$ m., is perhaps the most difficult, but by far the grandest of all. The distance from *Capel Curig* is nearly 9 m. The path quits the high road at *Gorphwysfa*, "the resting-place," at the watershed of the pass, where there is a small roadside Inn. The path, for 2 m. a car road, turns off at once to the l., and, climbing over some rough and rocky ground, passes the small *Llyn Teyrn*, where there are some deserted miners' cottages. It soon enters the grandest valley of Snowdon, *Cwm Dyli*, and comes in sight of *Llyn Llydaw*, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from *Gorphwysfa*. This beautiful Alpine pool is of the darkest green colour, and about 1 m. long. Its broadest end reposes under the lofty precipices of *Lliwedd*, lying at the height of 1527 ft. above the sea. "Around

it rise the cliffs of Lliwedd, Crib Goch, and Pen-y-Wyddfa, seamed with veins of white quartz, that gleam like streaks of snow on the tall black rocks encircling the vast amphitheatre, with scarred sides and ragged outlines." This view of Snowdon is striking, and so easily accessible, that it is worth the while of those who do not mean to ascend to drive or walk thus far, not 2 m. from the high road, to enjoy it, weather being fine. Its beauty has been much shorn by an ugly embankment, made by the miners for the purpose of access to a copper-mine on the N.W. side of the pool, which, by this proceeding, has been drained to a considerable extent, and lowered to a depth of 12 ft. The road is carried across the embankment, and then follows up a little river which issues from Ffynnon Llyn Glas, or Glaslyn, a small tarn on a much higher level, situated in a deep basin directly under the precipice of Moel-y-Wyddfa. The whole of this track has been made and used by the copper-miners, who have driven a level into the heart of the rocks just above the lake. Above this the path becomes zigzag and steep, and demands considerable care, and keeping Llyn Llydaw on the left, begins to mount upwards by the side of a stream. The ascent is very trying up to Crib-y-Ddysgyl, on the summit of which ridge the path joins that from Llanberis.

Summit of Snowdon.

The visitor who has arrived at the peak of Snowdon by any of these routes will be much mistaken if he comes prepared for mountain solitude, for Moel-y-Wyddfa in the season is one of the most crowded spots in Wales. The guides have erected 2 or 3 huts on the highest point, where refreshments, such as eggs, cheese, tea, and bottled beer, may be obtained at tolerably reasonable prices, con-

sidering the labour of getting them up. In foggy or wet weather it is no slight relief to find a dry room and blazing fire. A charge of 6s. is made for bed and breakfast, to those who wish to see the sun rise. Fortunate are they who have ascended on a cloudless day, for the prospect is one of almost boundless magnificence. "In this great prospect the mountain tarns, which gleam upon you from the bosom of the hills, form the most remarkable feature. I counted 23; among them one, very far up its own mountain, gleamed out as from a brimming basin, over the Holyhead road, at least 1500 ft. above the neighbouring track of human traffic."—*Talfourd*. The distant views embrace the mountains of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Lancashire, Penygvent and Ingleborough in Yorkshire, the Isle of Man, the hills of Wicklow with a good part of the Irish coast; while nearer home we have the whole of Anglesey and Caernarvonshire at the feet, and we might almost say the whole of N. Wales. To the W.N.W. and W. rise Moel Eilio, Mynydd Mawr, the Glyders, Moel Siabod, Trifaen; Carneddys Davydd and Llewelyn, Penmaenmawr, and the Menai Straits, with the Clwydian hills in the distance. To the S. is Moel Hebog, and W. are the pools of Nantlle, Drws-y-Coed, Gyrngoch, and Yr Eifl, with the sparkling sea beyond; while to the S.E. the eye wanders over a perfect wilderness of mountains—Moelwyn, Cynicht, Moel Lledr, and the Manods above Festiniog, the Arennigs, the Berwyns, Aran Ben Llyn and Aran Mawddwy near Bala, Llawllech and the Rhinogs over Harlech, Cader Idris near Dolgelley, the rounded hills of Montgomeryshire, with Plinlimmon and the Cardigan-shire hills in the far distance. Directly at the feet lie Llanberis, with its lakes, Llyn Cwellyn and Llyn-y-Gader, and the beautiful vale of Nant Gwynnant,

while a stone might be thrown into any of the deep valleys underneath. From 25 to 30 lakes are visible altogether from the summit.

The early name for Snowdon was Eryri, or Craig Eryri, which some have taken to mean the Rock of Eagles, and others the Snowy Mountains, a term which is not well applied, as it is generally free from snow from May to November, although in late seasons drifts lie in the hollows considerably longer. Camden speaks of the Snowdon range as the British Alps, "*Alpes, si placet, Britannicas merito hos montes appelles, nam præterquam quod totius insulæ maximi sunt, etiam incisis undique rupibus, non minus quam Alpes, præcípites.*" Snowdon was made a royal forest by Edward I., and was then famed for its deer. It was, however, disafforested in 1649, though a ranger is still appointed by the Crown. This by no means implies that the mountain was ever covered with trees, at least in historic times.

The *Geology* of the mountain is very interesting. It has been already seen that the rocks at Llanberis are the equivalents of the Longmynd or Bottom Rocks. To these succeed dark bluish-grey slaty schists, representing the inferior part of the Llandeilo formation. "In them, however, no clear fossil evidences have been detected. They are traversed by eruptive rocks, consisting of porphyry or greenstone."—*Siluria*. At the summit of Snowdon are the Caradoc or Bala Rocks, "although the original beds alternate rapidly with volcanic dejections of ashes and felspathic materials." Many typical casts of shells may be found here with very little search. "All these porphyries are true Silurian lava-beds, accompanied by volcanic ashes of the same period. They are perfectly interbedded with fossiliferous strata; and it is worthy of remark

that the slates on which the porphyries rest have been altered at points of contact by the overflowing melted masses, whereas the slaty beds that rest upon them, having been deposited on a cooled surface, are unchanged by heat."—*Ramsay*. The observer, standing on the summit of Moel-y-Wyddfa, will be able to understand the different courses which the glaciers took in flowing through their respective valleys, at the bottom of which he will mark the striations on the rocks above, besides the numerous blocs perchés, roches moutonnées, and moraine-heaps which are scattered about in every direction.

Botany.

Snowdon offers a rare harvest to the botanical collector, though many of the more uncommon plants have become very scarce, owing to the repeated raids upon the Flora of the district by enthusiasts in the science and fern dealers. Bingley, who was an experienced botanist, enumerates the following:—*Anthericum serotinum*, *Saussurea alpina*, *Cerastium alpinum*, *C. latifolium*, *Saxifraga stellaris*, *S. nivalis*, *S. oppositifolia*, *Lychnis alpina*, *Cyathea fragilis*, *Asplenium septentrionale*, *Pteris crispata*, *Mecanopsis cambrica*, *Viola alpina*, *Geum rivale*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Saxifraga aizoides*, *Poa glauca*, *Festuca rubra*, *Arenaria verna*, *Asplenium viride*, *Oxyria digynus*, *Thalictrum alpinum*, *Aspidium lonchitis*, *Polypodium arvense*, *Arabis hispida*, *Rubus saxatilis*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Heliocaris cæspitosa*, *Schænus nigricans*, *Hieracium alpinum*. Besides these there have been found *Polygonum viviparum*, *P. phlegopteris*, *Habenaria albida*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Lycopodium alpinum*, *Woodsia alpina*, and *W. ilvensis*.

ROUTE 18.

CAPEL CURIG OR LLANBERIS TO
BEDDGELEERT, BY PEN-Y-GWRYD
AND NANT GWYNNANT.

The high road from Capel Curig (Rte. 17) to Llanberis (6 m.) throws off, at the small but comfortable Inn of Pen-y-Gwryd, another which leads due S. to Beddgelert (8 m.), descending the pretty valley of the Nant Gwynnant. It is traversed daily in summer by *Coaches* going to and fro. The view from the Inn, down Nant Gwynnant, is charming.

Soon after commencing the very steep and long descent, the road leaves on rt. the opening of the wild glen of Cwm Dyli, which, penetrating into the heart of Snowdon, sends forth the Dyli to join the Colwyn at Beddgelert. It takes its rise in the little tarn of Glaslyn, lying immediately under the summit of Snowdon; and enters Nant Gwynnant, flowing over a series of cascades for about 300 ft. At $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. it falls into *Llyn Gwynnant*, the most exquisite of Welsh lakes, situated under the precipices of Lliwedd, and with woods feathering down to the water at the lower end. It is about 1 m. in length, but with a shallow weedy bottom, full of fish. The injudicious use of the net by the landlords of the hotels, has, however, considerably spoiled the fishing. The trout are fine and strong, and "of 2 varieties, bright yellow, which when cooked cut red, and an inferior sort, of darker colour with white belly." Cliffe states that from one net alone, in a single season, 15,000 dozen of trout were taken. There are several boats here, and amongst others one

belonging to the landlord of the *Pen-y-Gwryd Inn*.

The old road, which diverges from Pen-y-Gwryd on a lower level, following the track of a Roman road, here joins the present coach-road.

The traveller who is journeying from Beddgelert perceives from a considerable distance the long line or scaur faced by a wall, traversing the side of the mountain, which marks the road to Llanberis, reminding him of the zigzags in some of the grand roads over the Alps.

Previous to arriving at Llyn Gwynnant is a track on l. leading through Bwlchheddiad into the valley of the Lledr and Castell Dolwyddelan, which is about 5 m. distant (Rte. 12). On the S. side of Gwynnant lake are 2 pretty villa residences.

$5\frac{1}{2}$ m.l. are the woods of *Plas Gwynnant*, opposite to which *Cwm Llan* runs up N.N.W. under the very peak of Moel-y-Wyddfa, the peak of Snowdon, which in clear weather is seen peering down through the gap to greater advantage than perhaps from any other point. Nowhere in the Principality are the rude and giant masses of the British Alps more happily blended with the softer scenery of the fertile valley.

After crossing the Glaslyn,

6 m. a smaller sheet of water, *Llyn-y-Ddinas*, opens out, connected with Llyn Gwynnant by the Glaslyn, which has become a tolerably broad stream. It is of an oval shape, completely shut in by mountains, although it does not quite come up to Llyn Gwynnant in scenic effect. Yr Aran, another of Snowdon's loftiest shoulders, towers over the W. bank. Towards the S.W. the scenery is peculiarly fine, including a part of Dinas Emrys, and terminated by Moel Hebog. The fishing is inferior.

[Between the 2 lakes, on the S. side of Plas Gwynnant, a road to l. follows the course of a small brook

which rises in the precipitous ranges of the Lledr mountains. The scenery, especially the views of Snowdon and its great glacier valleys, will well repay exploration; and to the fisherman there is an additional inducement in 3 lakes, *Llyn Edno*, *Llyn Llgi*, and *Llyn-yr-Adar*. The former in particular is celebrated for its large red trout, which vary from 1 to 2 lbs., and have been caught as large as 6 lbs. They are, however, shy, and the fishing is dangerous on account of the rocks shelving rapidly into very deep water. On *Llyn-yr-Adar* are numbers of the black-backed gulls, which breed on an islet. From hence it is not very far (but difficult walking) to the summit of *Cynicht*, a wild peak belonging to the Festiniog group (Rte. 19).]

[After quitting the lower end of *Llyn-y-Dinas* the road passes rt. under *Dinas Emrys*, a singular isolated rock clothed on all sides with wood, containing on the summit some faint remains of a building defended by ramparts. According to the legend, Vortigern, the British king, spurned by the Saxon Hengist, whom he had treacherously introduced into the country, when flying from his own injured subjects retired to the top of this insulated hill, where he commenced a fort, which fell to pieces as fast as it was raised, until his wise men bade him sprinkle the fortress with the blood of a child born out of due course. Such a child was found in Merlin Ambrosius, who helped the king by more effectual means than bloodshedding, and proceeded to construct it conformably with his advice. It was here that the outcast king learned from the seer all the evils that destiny had in store for him; and here, deep in the rock, yet lie buried the golden throne and diamond sword of the enchanter. To him Vortigern gave up his residence, himself retiring to Nant Gwr-

theyrn (Rte. 15), where he ended his days. Emrys is of course a corruption of Ambrosius.

"For thou heardst wise Merlin first relate
The destinies' decree of Britain's future fate,
Which truly he foretold proud Vortiger
should lose,
As when him from his seat the Saxons should
depose;
And to that mightie king which rashly undertooke
A strong-wall'd tower to reare, those earthly
spirits that shooke
The great foundation still, in Dragon's horrid
shape,
That dreaming wizard told; making the mountain
gape
With his most powerfull charmes, to view
those caverns deepe;
And from the top of Britt, so high and
wondrous steepe,
Where Dinas Emrys stood, shew'd where the
serpents fought,
The white that tore the red; from whence
the Prophet wrought
The Britain's sad decay then shortly to
ensue." *Drayton's Polyolbion.*

From hence the river runs in an exquisitely-wooded vale to

8 m. **Beddgelert.** (Rte. 19).]

Those who wish to shorten the journey to Caernarvon, can take the train to *Snowdon Ranger*, $7\frac{3}{4}$ m. from Caernarvon and $5\frac{1}{4}$ m. from Beddgelert.

Caernarvon is in Rte. 15.

ROUTE 19.

CAERNARVON TO PORTMADOC, BY
BEDDGELERT, PONT ABERGLAS-
LYN, AND TREMADOC.—N. WALES
NARROW GAUGE RLY. TO SNOW-
DON RANGER, RHYD-DU.

A narrow-gauge passenger Rly. has been made from Dinas Junct., by Bettws Garmon and Llyn Cwellyn, to Rhyd-du Stat., beyond the Snowdon Ranger Inn.

Rail to Rhyd-du and omnibus to Beddgelert, 16 m.

The coach-road, on leaving Caernarvon, crosses the Seiont river and the rly. to Llanberis (Rte. 17), and ascends a long hill commanding views over Anglesey. It passes *Llanbeblig*, the mother church of Caernarvon. The Church, restored 1842, is a plain structure with Irish-stepped battlements. It contains some stained glass, and a beautiful alabaster monument, adorned with figures on the sides, to William Griffith, son of Sir William Griffith, and Margaret his wife. Llanbeblig is dedicated to St. Peblig or Publicus, a son of Maximus and Helena, and was given by Richard II. to the nuns of St. Mary at Chester.

3½ m. *Dinas Junct. Stat.*, Rte. 14. Change here for North Wales Narrow Gauge Rly.

[A considerable extent of bleak high ground is crossed, and at the road beyond Trefau Stat. the railroad rises above the valley of the *Gwyrffai*, where the scenery becomes broken and varied. On rt. is the rocky

eminence of Moel Smythau, nearly opposite which the bluff smooth heights of Moel Eilio tower over the village of

Bettws Garmon Stat., so called from the militant missionary, whose name is associated with the British victory at Mold (see Rte. 10). Ironstone has been worked on the sides of this hill; and the entrance of the levels, and the incline down which the ore was brought, are visible.

6½ m. the scenery improves, and at *Nant Mill*, or Nant Melin, the tourist has one of the most lovely bits in Wales, which has been often transferred to the canvas of numberless artists. The Gwyrffai here rushes from Llyn Cwellyn at its N.W. extremity over its steep and rocky bed, while on the l. bank a ruined mill is placed, as if on purpose to give effect. On the l. are the thick pine-woods of Plas-y-Nant; and on rt. the tremendous precipices of Craig Cwm Bychan, and the black glen of Cwm Du, frown defiance over the lake. These rocks are the barren and perpendicular escarpment of *Mynydd Mawr*, which intervenes between Llyn Cwellyn and the Nantlle Pass (Rte. 14); and although very fine over Drws-y-Coed, they are surpassed in height and grandeur by Cwm Du.

7 m. *Llyn Cwellyn* is a plain sheet of water, about 1½ m. in length, lying in an elongated basin between the spurs of Moel Goch and Moel-y-Cynghorion on l., and Mynydd Mawr (2300 ft.). At its N.W. end the cliffs of Craig-cwm-Bychan descend precipitously to the water's edge, and one isolated rock in particular was crowned with an early British fortress, called *Castell Cidwm*, "the Wolf's Castle," of which scarce a trace remains. It most likely obtained its name either from the savage aspect of the rocks,

or from its being the veritable haunt of wild beasts in the days when Snowdon was still a forest. "On the crest of Mynydd Mawr, which overhangs the waters of the lake, was the hold of a robber-chief, who was said to have murdered the brother of Constantine the Great, by shooting him with an arrow as he was passing along the valley below with some soldiers, on the way to meet his mother, who, as she was joyfully advancing to the rencontre, was met near Tan-y-Bwlch by the messenger bearing the intelligence of the death of her son. 'Croes awr i mi!' she exclaimed in her anguish (Oh! adverse hour for me!) and to this day the spot which witnessed her distress is still called Croes awr."

The scenery of Llyn Cwellyn is rather of a melancholy character, owing to the absence of trees, and to the long barren expanse of hill that slopes down from Snowdon.

7 m. *Snowdon Ranger Stat.*, near the middle of the lake, a solitary but comfortable little Inn, "*the Snowdon Ranger*," much patronised by anglers, and chosen by many as a favourable point from which to make the *Ascent* of Snowdon. The landlord acts as guide, and the distance is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. (Rte. 17A). The best point for fishing is at the head of the lake, where the water is shallow, and there is a grassy and weedy bottom. The llyn contains char (Welsh, "torgoch," red belly), which are taken generally in winter and in deep water. The trout are plentiful, but indiscriminate netting is now forbidden, the lake being carefully preserved for anglers. There are boats which belong to the Inn, but, as Llyn Cwellyn is subject to violent squalls, fishermen who do not know the water should be particularly careful when the weather is inclined to be rough. The best flies are red spinner, mackerel, and drake's wing.

The mountain-views from the road are very fine, Moel-y-Wyddfa being a conspicuous object on the l., and the ranges that guard the pass of Drws-y-Coed towering one over the other on rt. This spot inspired Wilson with the idea of his celebrated picture.

$9\frac{1}{2}$ m. *Rhyd-du Terminus.*

4 m. from Rhyd-du the ascent of Snowdon is often made.

A bridle-road on rt. leads past Llyn Dywarchen, through the pass of Drws-y-Coed, to the lakes of Nantlle (Rte. 14).]

10 m. rt. of the coach-road, in a wild, barren table-land, is *Llyn-y-Gader*, "the Pool of the Chair," a lake of no great size, on which there is a boat belonging to the hotel at Beddgelert. The trout are small, about $\frac{1}{4}$ pound, and very plentiful, but, owing to the boggy shore, a boat is absolutely required.

A little further on, at the top of the watershed, on rt., is a large rock or boulder-stone, named *Pitt's Head*, from a singular resemblance to the profile of that statesman.

Nearly opposite this rock a path on l. leads to Ffridd Uchaf farmhouse, through which the track to Snowdon runs from Beddgelert (Rte. 17A).

From hence the road runs rapidly down the valley of the Colwyn, the woods, which have been hitherto very scarce, now beginning to fringe the road. On the rt. *Moel Hebog*, the Hill of the Hawk, is a grand object, and rivets the attention by its scarred and shattered sides. High up on the hills are seen mountain-farms, or Hafodtai, "summer-homesteads," on the sheep-walks of which enormous flocks of sheep are pastured. The tourist will frequently have his attention struck by the melancholy sound of a horn, which is used by the inmates

of the farms to call the shepherds to their meals. The vale becomes deeper and more beautifully wooded, and at 13 m. unites with the exquisite valley of Nant Gwynnant, at the pretty Welsh village of

13 m., **Beddgelert** (*Inns*: Goat Hotel; outside the village, a large house, very full in summer; table-d'hôte 5s. Less pretending are Prince Llewelyn, comfortable, and Saracen's Head, in the village).

Beddgelert, a large village beautifully situated in a green basin shut in by mountains and high precipices, is a great centre of tourist traffic. *Coaches* run from this round the base of Snowdon to Caernarvon; to Llanberis, 14 m. (Rte. 17); to Tremadoc Stat., on the Cambrian Rly. It stands on the junction of the Colwyn with the Glaslyn river, under the towering heights of Moel Hebog, Yr Aran, and Craig-y-Llyn. The *Church*, in a corner near the river, is a mean rough building, with 3 pointed arches built up into the N. wall, showing that it forms part of an old ch., perhaps attached to a convent said to have been founded here. An excellent view of the valley may be gained by crossing 4 or 5 fields behind the Goat Inn.

The spot of greatest interest here, which the stranger should not delay visiting, is the grand **Pass of Pont Aberglaslyn**, an easy walk of 1½ m. from the Goat, down the valley, which, being traversed by the high road to Tremadoc, is described farther on (p. 126).

The story of Prince Llewelyn and his greyhound Gelert is familiar to all, and under altered names occurs in the legends and folklore of many countries and nations, not only of Europe, but of Asia. On this spot, however, it has especially taken root, since it gives the name to it—"The Grave of Gelert." Llewelyn came to this place during the hunting

season, with his child, who, left unprotected, was attacked by a wolf which had entered the house. On Llewelyn's return from the hunt he was met by Gelert, wagging his tail, but covered with blood, "*faucibus sanguinolentis.*" Alarmed at the sight, and thinking that the dog had injured the child, the impetuous prince drew his dagger and slew his hound. But, on entering the house, the dead body of the wolf, lying within a few yards of the sleeping child, too late disclosed to him his fatal mistake and the fidelity of Gelert. To his memory, in grief for his good dog, he raised a tomb, and called the spot Beddgelert. This tomb is said to exist in a field close to the ch., without any authority but that of the landlord of the Goat, who felt compelled by the cravings of tourists to invent a grave. It may be reached by a path from the garden of the Goat, and is marked by a group of stones. The tradition has been preserved and prettily transferred to verse by the late Hon. William Spencer:—

"Ah, what was then Llewelyn's pain!
For now the truth was clear;
The gallant hound the wolf had slain
To save Llewelyn's heir."

Coaches daily from Beddgelert to Llanberis 14 m., by the charming valley of Nant Gwynnant, Dinas Emrys, and Capel Curig (Rte. 18):—to Portmadoc by Pont Aberglaslyn.

Omnibus to Rhyd-du Stat., whence rail to Caernarvon (see p. 123).

Excursions to Moel Hebog, &c., and to the top of Snowdon, 6 m. (see Rte. 17A, No. 2). The ascent may also be made by another path, following the Nant Gwynnant road as far as the turn to the Cwm-y-llan Quarries. Follow the quarry road as far as it goes, then climb straight up to the summit.

Distances.—Snowdon top, 6 m.; Capel Curig, 12; Dinas Emrys, 1½;

Llyn-y-Gader, $3\frac{1}{2}$; Moel Hebog, 2; Pont Aberglaslyn, $1\frac{1}{2}$; Tremadoc, 7; Tan-y-Bwlch by old road, 10 m.

[A most magnificent view is obtainable from *Moel Hebog*, one of the Snowdonian hills composed of Caradoc formations, which rises immediately behind the Goat to a height of 2578 ft. The ascent presents no difficulties, although it is extremely rough and steep, and an active climber may ascend in a direct line from the hotel. There are two farms at the foot, for which the pedestrian had better steer, and from thence he may climb the shoulder. There is a very fine *cwm* on the N.E. side, but, generally speaking, although of a broken surface, Moel Hebog is without those Alpine glens which are so characteristic of this district. The view extends up to Pen-y-Gwryd on the E., with Llyn Gwynnant and Dinas, and over the peninsula of Llyn, the Bay of Cardigan, down to St. David's Head on the W. and S.]

Moel Hebog is considered by the guides an unerring barometer as regards the ascent to Snowdon, to attempt which is useless when the Moel Hebog is covered with clouds.

Beddgelert to Pont Aberglaslyn and Tremadoc.

From Beddgelert the road continues along the rt. bank of the Glaslyn, which, from a cheerful mountain-stream, begins to assume the character of a rapid torrent. The hills on each side become more naked, wild, and precipitous, and at $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the Goat approach each other so nearly as scarce to leave room for the river as it rushes through the Pass of **Pont Aberglaslyn*, one of the most striking of all the North Welsh scenes. The road has been terraced, at great expense, out of the solid rock. This is undoubtedly one of the most grand and romantic defiles in N. Wales:—

"Where the blue Glaslyn hurries her fleet course

To wanton on the yellow level sands,
On either side, in their ascent abrupt,
The rocks, like barriers that in elder times
Walled the huge cities of the Anakim,
Upblacken to the sky, whose tender hue
With mild relief salutes the o'erlabour'd sight."—*Milman*.

The lover of the picturesque should walk leisurely through the pass for about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. In a carriage he will be hurried too rapidly past the beauties of the scene. On the rt. rises a mountain precipice, probably 800 ft. high, towering over the road; its rugged surface is tinged with a russet hue, barely modified by a scanty tint of green from the partial vegetation growing upon it, augmented, since the planting of the Tremadoc Estate, by fir trees, whose seed have been blown up the gorge by the wind into crannies of the rock, inaccessible to human foot. At its foot the Glaslyn rolls its clear waters, which have a singular beryl-green colour. It is as though the mountains, Craig-y-Llan on l., and Moel Hebog on rt., had been split asunder to let the river—"the blue pool"—pass. This scene forms the great charm to the neighbourhood of Beddgelert.

"He led him on

Till now the black and shaggy pass spreads out

To a green quiet valley. . . .

. The stream

Here curl'd more wanton, lightly wafting down

The last thin golden leaves the alder drops,
Like fairy-barges skimming the blue waves."—*Milman's Samor*.

The geologist must look out in this pass for striations and glacier-groovings, a notice of which is given in the late Dr. Buckland's own writing, to be seen in the Goat Hotel. At the Merionethshire, or lower entrance to the pass, an ivy-clad stone *Bridge* of one arch crosses the river, carrying the road to Tan-y-Bwlch, which from this is about $8\frac{1}{4}$ m.

Sewin and salmon are in the habi

of coming up the river in considerable quantities to the bridge, but poaching is carried on to such an extent that the sport is good for little. A pointed rock in the pass of Aberglaslyn is shown as the Chair of Rhys Goch, a bardic partisan of Owain Glyndwr, who lived to an immense age. See Borrow's 'Wild Wales,' Vol. II., p. 165. [The old road to *Tan-y-Bwlch* opens a short cut for pedestrians who wish to reach that place at once; carriages may take the road to *Tan-y-Bwlch* by Penrhyn Deudraeth, which saves 3 m.]

1½ m. l. is *Dolfrïog*.

[*Ascent of Cynicht*. At 2 m. a bridle-road l. runs up the vale of Nanty-y-Mor, at the bend of which the tourist should turn to the rt., and breast the slopes of the hill above Cwm Celli Iago, from which some sharp climbing will place him at the head of the cone at the summit of *Cynicht*, which rises to the height of 2372 ft. It is an ascent rarely undertaken, but it is well worth the trouble for the sake of the magnificent view. Snowdon lies to the N., with all its concomitant ranges, and to the S.E. is the mighty jagged mountain of Moelwyn, separated only by the deep Cwm Croesor.]

The road from *Pont Aberglaslyn* to *Tremadoc* rises considerably above the river, overshadowed by a long range of rocks, which in fact keep company with it for the whole distance. Many of these have rounded forms and mammillated surfaces, with deep grooves engraven by ancient glaciation on the sides of Snowdon, which left these marks behind in its descent towards the sea. Looking back, a very beautiful view of Snowdon, Yr Aran, Cynicht, and Moelwyn is obtained. The river, after its impetuous rush through the pass, becomes broad, deep, and sedate—in fact a tidal river—winding its

way through an alluvial flat, which at once suggests the probability that the sea formerly came up very nearly to Aberglaslyn itself.

4½ m. from Beddgelert, at the Glaslyn Inn, a road and path turn l. direct to Portmadoc, 7 m. After passing this, the road enters the wide level of *Traeth Mawr*, and the river empties itself into the sea at the N.E. extremity of Cardigan Bay.

Still hugging the shade of the slate-rock of Allt Wen, which, with its precipitous sides lined with overhanging brushwood, forms a picturesque feature, the tourist soon arrives at

20 m. Tremadoc. (*Inns*: Madock Arms, better at Queen's H., close to Stat. at Portmadoc or Sportsman, in the town). On the outside of the town are the hanging woods and groves of Tanyrallt, a pretty residence built by the late W. A. Madocks, now Rev. Walter Kitching.

Tremadoc is a neat village now rather deserted for Portmadoc. It stands on the W. side and a little above the plain of *Traeth Mawr*, which owes its reclamation from the sea entirely to the late W. A. Madocks, Esq., M.P. As early as 1625 the scheme of rescuing these tracts struck the attention of Sir John Wynn of Gwydir, a very energetic and useful man in his day, who, unable to commence the speculation by himself, tried to induce Sir Hugh Myddelton, of New River celebrity, to join him. Sir Hugh, being at the time fully busy with his own undertakings, declined, and the plan therefore fell through, and remained untried until 1800, when Mr. Madocks, who had purchased Tanyrallt in 1791, with more success, reclaimed the land on the W. side of the river, thus gaining 2000 fertile acres. He then proceeded to convert the drowned lands within the *Traeth* by extending an embankment across

the arm of the sea, for which purpose he obtained an Act in 1807 giving him possession of the whole range of sands from Aberglaslyn. The latter stupendous undertaking, however, on which he expended a fortune (100,000*l.*), has not been attended with complete success; since the wall, in spite of its thickness, is not water-tight, and the sea pouring in at high tides converts the greater part of the space behind it into a vast lake. At the further extremity of the dyke the river Glaslyn is crossed by a strong stone bridge, between the arches of which are stout flood-gates, closed at high-water to prevent the entrance of the sea, and opened as the tide recedes, to allow the accumulated waters of the Glaslyn, the recipient of all the numerous streams which pour into this extensive estuary, to discharge themselves. Its channel has been considerably enlarged, and its banks protected by smaller dykes, to restrain it from flooding the surrounding district. The length of the embankment is about 1 m., the breadth being 100 ft. at the base and 30 at the top, along which the road to Tan-y-Bwlch and the Festiniog Rly. are carried. Its benefits are not confined to shutting out the sea, and reclaiming the land; they give, besides, an intercommunication from shore to shore, and obviate the danger to human life of crossing the sands. The total cost of this great undertaking, by which 7000 acres were reclaimed, was over 100,000*l.*

The road from Tremadoc to Portmadoc, 1 m., crosses the land barely recovered from the sea; where boats were navigated in 1812; its surface is still mere sand, and it is in places 3 ft. lower than the level of high tide. Part of it was then a saltmarsh, upon which a few sheep found pasturage, and were liable to be driven by high tides to take refuge on the rocky eminences

rising out of the plain, which were once islets.

Portmadoc Stat. (*Inns:* Queen's H., near Cambrian Rly. Stat.; Sportsman, P. H.; conveyances may be hired here.

Railways to Pwllheli and Caernarvon viâ Afon-wen (Rte. 14); South to Barmouth, &c., Harlech and Dolgelley. To Tan-y-Bwlch and the Slate Quarries by the Festiniog Narrow Gauge Railway from the Stat. at the W. end of the town, beyond the Sportsman Hotel (see Rte. 20).

Portmadoc is a rising little port of 2000 Inhab., doing a large business in the exportation of *Slates*, which are brought down from Festiniog slate-quarries by rly. In the very heart of the town is *Morfa Lodge*, another seat of the late Mr. Madoek, and now the residence of Mrs. Breese, situated under a high ridge of rocks called Moel-y-Gest, which overlooks the sea, and from the summit of which is a splendid view of the Merionethshire coast. The tourist who is curious in slates should pay a visit to the wharf. The name of Tremadoc Slates was given by Prof. Sedgewick to the formation occurring near this town, and lying above the Lingula Flags.

2 m. on the *Criccieth* road is the village of *Penmorfa*, the Church of which contains a monument to Sir John Owen of Clenemey, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Llandegai by Col. Twistleton at the head of the Parliamentary army. After his defeat he was brought up for trial in company with Lord Holland and others, and sentenced to be beheaded, when it is recorded of him that he made a low bow to his judges, and thanked them for their unexpected clemency. On being asked wherefore, he replied "that it was a great honour for him to lose his head in such good company, for that he was afraid that he

should have been hung," which ready answer procured him a pardon.

The geology of the country round Tremadoc is very interesting, and affords typical sections of the lower rocks. Here are seen the equivalents of the upper Longmynd rocks, which are immediately overlaid by the Lingula flags, the equivalents of the strata at the Stiperstones.

Distances.—*Criccieth*, 5 m.; *Pwllheli*, 13; *Caernarvon*, 21; *Tan-y-Bwlch*, 7; *Festiniog*, 10; *Penmorfa*, 2; *Pont Aberglaslyn*, $6\frac{1}{2}$ m.

ROUTE 20.

PORTMADOC OR MINFFORDD JUNCT.
TO DIFFWYS SLATE QUARRIES, AND
FESTINIOG, BY TAN-Y-BWLCH.—
NARROW GAUGE RAIL.

14 m., 6 trains daily, $1\frac{1}{4}$ hr. up, 1 hr. down.

This Miniature Railway is one of the curiosities of Wales, and deserves to be visited both on account of the peculiarities of construction, by which the diminutive Bogie-Fairlie engines, with driving wheels only 2 ft. 4 in. diameter, can draw heavy and long trains up an ascent of 700 ft. in 13 m., and traverse sharp curves of 6 or 8 chains radius round the shoulders of the hills and along the edge of precipices with perfect safety and at a high rate of speed. The Bogie principle consists in each pair of wheels moving on a central pivot, so that they can turn while the carriage above remains unbent. Owing to the narrowness of the gauge, only 2 ft., the passenger-carriages are in proportion, 6 ft. wide and $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high, yet perfectly comfortable. The long train constantly assumes the line of the letter "S" in the rapid succession of curves and reverse curves following the contour of the hills. It is a nearly uninterrupted ascent all the way.

[*N. Wales.*]

The succession of views up and down the valley of Festiniog, owing to the commanding height at which the line is carried, are superb. The cuttings are only just wide enough to admit the trains. The Engineer was Mr. James Spooner, who devised the plan and the gauge, and applied to it the "Bogie" engine. The Rly. cost only 6000*l.* per mile.

Portmadoc Terminus (Rte. 19) is on the long Embankment stretching out into the sea, across the Traeth Mawr, near the Bridge and Sluices. Observe the magnificent view from this Stat.; N., Snowdon, and S., Harlech Castle (see Rte. 24).

2 m. at *Minffordd Junct. Stat.* it crosses over the Cambrian line, which has also a Stat. here (Rte. 24), so that passengers can change from the one to the other.

The line is carried throughout along the slopes of the hills, on the rt. side of the valley of the Dwyryd, whose beautiful windings and reaches are well seen, as well as the distant sea and Harlech Castle.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ m. *Penryn Deudraeth Stat.*, a small village in a lovely situation, near which rises the fine modern castellated mansion of Mrs. Williams. Road l. to Beddgelert by Pont Aberglaslyn. The rly. for some distance penetrates the oak woods of Plas Tan-y-Bwlch, passing directly above that beautiful house and its grounds. It next makes a great bend up a side valley to reach

$7\frac{3}{4}$ m. *Tan-y-Bwlch Stat.* Omnibus to the *Oakley Arms Inn*, 1 m. down hill. *Maentwrog Inn* is $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. off (Rte. 22). *Pont Aberglaslyn* is 8 m. distant.

As the line skirts the edge of this precipice it command fine views of the sea, of Plas Tan-y-Bwlch, of the mountains at the head of the valley of Festiniog. Before and after this stat. the line is carried through tunnels, one 700 yds. long in Syenite.

Tan-y-Bwlch is a mere hamlet

the chief building being the *Oakley Arms Hotel, very comfortable, close to *Plas Tan-y-Bwlch*, the beautiful seat of W. E. Oakley, Esq., situated on a ledge or terrace halfway up the lovely vale of the Dwyryd, between Tremadoc, on the sea, and Festiniog mountain village at its upper end.

The Plas is a handsome modern Gothic mansion, nestling in fine woods, commanding lovely views. To the private grounds and walks, guests staying at the Inn have the privilege of access.

The narrow rly. continues to ascend round the shoulder of Moelwyn, leaving Festiniog behind, on the opposite side of the valley. Through a tunnel a barren upland is reached.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ m. *Tan-y-Grisiau Stat.* 630 ft.

[The best starting-point for the ascent of *Moelwyn* is *Tan-y-Grisiau*, where a little stream descends from *Cwm Orthin*. Follow the stream beyond the lake, keeping to the rt. of it, and climb the steepes of *Moel-yr-Hydd*, from which a rocky ridge leads to the summit, 2566 ft. above the sea. The way is broken and difficult, but only requires common mountain qualifications, and the top is reached in 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour from the stat. The view of *Snowdon* is superb, also of the coast from *Harlech* to *Criccieth Castles*. The ascent up the western arm from the *Beddgelert* road is practicable for a pony. On the E. and N. sides the face of the mountain is marked by deep *cwm*s, the rocks on each side rising up in more jagged and broken form than is exhibited by any other mountain in Wales. Geologically speaking, all this group consists of porphyries and embedded ash thrown up at a time of great disturbance during the deposition of the *Llandeilo* flags. They are consequently of an older epoch than the embedded ashes of the *Snowdon* group, which belong to the *Bala* series.]

13 m. *Blaenau Festiniog Stat.* is close to the slate quarries, and to the Stat. of Lond. and N. W. Rail to *Bettws-y-Coed* and *Dolwyddelan*, Rte. 12B, and to *Bala*.

Here is the Railway Hotel built by the L. and N. Western Company.

The Narrow Gauge line continues on to

14 m. *Diffwys* (pronounced *Diffoos*) *Terminus*, close to which is the Queen Hotel, fair, and not far off a third Rly. Stat., that of the Great Western, whose line runs to Festiniog village (4 m.) and to *Bala* (Rte. 21). There are thus three *dis-junctions*, and passengers changing at the same spot!

Diffwys is a village at the head of the valley of the Dwyryd. It stands in a wilderness of shattered slate, under a semicircle of precipices partly bored through with slate quarries or mines, one of which was long worked by Lord Palmerston, and is now by his heirs. Several thousand men and boys find employment in the quarrying of slate in this district. The quarries differ from those of *Penrhyn* and *Llanberis*, inasmuch as they are in part underground, descending one story beneath the other, the roof being supported by piers of slate left standing, and following the dip of the strata. They deserve a visit, but strangers should employ a guide, not only to show the way, but to keep them out of danger from falling slates. It is a striking sight to look down into the dark depth of the mountain and see men working like mites at the bottom of deep pits, and rolling tramways in places crossing gaps on subterranean bridges.

The Great Western Rly., *Bala Branch*, runs from *Diffwys* to Festiniog village, 4 m., passing under the slopes of the two *Manods*, conspicuous mountains, between which is *Llyn-y-Manod*, a small lake (see Rte. 21).

4 m. *Festiniog Stat.* is described in Route 21.

ROUTE 21.

BALA TO FESTINIOG, BY RHYD-Y-FEN, TRAWSFYNYDD, AND MAENTWROG—GT. WESTERN RAIL.

Rail 22 m., 3 trains daily, in 1 hour 20 min. Bala is in *Rte. 3*. This line of rly., part of the Great Western system, opened 1882, ascends for about 12 m. the valley of the Tryweryn, until at Festiniog it attains to 700 ft. above sea-level. It passes through a country somewhat dreary, first leaving rt. on the hill the mansion of Rhiwlas, seat of R. Price, Esq., embosomed in trees.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ m. *Frongoch Stat.*, so called from a farmhouse.

$8\frac{1}{2}$ m. *Arennig Stat.*, near the hamlet of *Rhyd-y-fen*. Here is a clean little roadside *Inn*, from which may be made the ascent of *Arennig Fawr*, a mountain rising 2809 feet above the Stat., while *Arennig Fach* overhangs it on the N., forming one of the grandest mountain groups in Wales. Both mountains consist of the igneous porphyry upon which rest the fossiliferous Bala limestone-strata. It is a walk of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour to the top of *Arennig Fach*. The pedestrian may make for the farm *Amnodd Wen*, whence a wall striking up the hill, will give the direction. The view from the top, extensive and beautiful, expands N. to Snowdon, the Carneddys and Glyders, Rhobell, Cynyct, and part of Cader Idris, and beyond Bala lake S.E. the Berwyns.

About a mile from this stat. is Llyn Arennig, an extremely deep

pool, whence Bala derives part of its water supply.

The river Tryweryn runs between the two Arennigs. The summit-level of the rly. is near Llyn Tryweryn, in a dreary district of moorland, and a little farther on is the *Viaduct* over the Lladron brook, of 9 arches, 36 ft. span, and 104 ft. high. This leads down into the Vale of Cwm Prysor, passing rt. *Castell Prysor*, an old fort, now reduced to a fragment of wall upon a rocky eminence.

The rly. next approaches within $\frac{3}{4}$ m. of Trawsfynydd village, at which distance is

17 m. *Trawsfynydd Stat.* (a good homely small country *Inn*, the Cross Foxes (see *Rte. 22*), on the road S. to Dolgelley). Here the Rly. makes a bend to the N., passes rt. a green mound, which is *Tomen-y-Mur*, at the meeting of 4 Roman roads, and at the junction of the roads from Festiniog to Maentwrog, reaches

20 m. *Maentwrog Road Stat.*, in a beautiful situation, 2 m. from Maentwrog (*Inn*: Grapes, very fair and quiet, and good fishing), a village in a very lovely situation under a high wooded bank on the Dwyryd, here crossed by a bridge leading to Tan-y-Bwlch, 1 m. distant (*Rte. 22*), and *Plas Tan-y-Bwlch*, Mr. Oakley's beautiful seat. It derives its name from a stone in the churchyard, dedicated to St. Twrog, who flourished about 610. Travellers who wish to explore the vale of Festiniog at leisure cannot do better than fix their quarters here. Maentwrog is about 2 m. distant from the Tan-y-Bwlch Stat. of the Tremadoc and Diffwys Rly. (*Rte. 20*), and stands at the junction of roads from Harlech to Festiniog.

Rather more than $\frac{1}{2}$ m. along the road from this to Harlech, the river Rhydfach passes under a broad bridge to join the Dwyryd. Up the Rhydfach glen a path runs for $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the waterfall of *Rhaiadr Du* (the

Black Cataract). Although the height is not great, it is a beautiful fall on account of the large body of water which is thrown over 3 black smooth rocks. Higher up there is the *Raven Fall*, deriving most of its beauty from the wild loveliness of the glen. A guide to these falls lives at a cottage near a lime-kiln. Without a guide of some sort it is difficult to find one's way from the Rhaiadr Du to the upper fall. A bridle-road to l. leads to Harlech, the old road, indeed, which runs past Llyn Tecwyn and the village of Llandecwyn.

This is the most convenient stat. for Tomen-y-Mur (Rte. 22).

A steep incline is surmounted by the rly. to reach the heights of

22 m. **Festiniog Stat.**, after crossing the Cynfael a little above the flat rock called Hugh Lloyd's Pulpit. The rly. is continued to

Blaenau Festiniog Stat. (Diffwys).

23 m. **Festiniog** (*i.e.* the Place of Hastening) is a wide-spreading town, devoted to slate, and a rural village 4 m. off perched on a hill at the head of the valley of the Dwyryd, in the centre of lovely scenery (*Inns* : *Penggwyn Arms, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the rly. stat. ; Abbey Arms). Festiniog being placed on a hill, the high road makes a wide circuit to reach it. The pedestrian may save $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. by taking a footpath across fields, traversing the stream of the Cynfael by a bridge near the waterfalls. It is worth while to repair to the *Churchyard* for the sake of the beautiful view which it commands. The beauty of the valley looking down towards Maentwrog and Portmadoc is exquisite, the woods on either side hanging over the vale, through which the Dwyryd winds, while opposite are the jagged outlines of Moelwyn and its subordinate heights.

Festiniog is noted for its water-

falls : a little dog at the Inn, on the mention of the word, wags his tail, and offers his services as guide.

A path leads from the town across a farmyard and field to the wooded banks of the *Cynfael*, which rushes a deep channel opened in the Lingula Flags in a succession of romantic falls of much beauty but of no great height. "In one spot the upper beds at the top of the gorge have slid upon the lower along their dip, so as to project over the stream like a corbel; and advantage has been taken of this to form a bridge by means of a slab of rock laid from the projecting mass to the top of the opposite bank. At another point several very large boulders are stuck fast in the channel, and the stream flows beneath them." Between the lower fall and the bridge is a tall rock called Hugh Llwyd's Pulpit, the scene of a legend about a soldier, poet, and wizard of the days of Charles I. and Charles II., who was accustomed to hold forth from thence.

The parish of Festiniog numbers more than 6000 Inhab., chiefly settled on the Diffwys side of the valley, owing to the slate quarries of Lord Newborough, Mr. Oakley, and the representatives of Lord Palmerston. Festiniog claims to have been the birthplace of Rhys Goch or Red Rhys of Snowdon, an aged bard contemporary with Owain Glyndwr.

Railways.—To Diffwys and the Slate Quarries—thence to Bettws-y-Coed, by Dolwyddelan Castle (Rte. 12B) ; to Bala ;—to Tan-y-Bwlch and Portmadoc (Rte. 20).

Distances.—Tan-y-Bwlch, 3 m. ; Diffwys Slate Quarries, $4\frac{1}{2}$; Dolwyddelan Castle, about 8. By Rail : Bettws-y-Coed, 15 m. ; Rhaiadr Cwm, 3 ; Bala, 19 ; Ysppyty Ivan, 11 ; Penmachno, $10\frac{1}{2}$; Llangynog, 32 m.

Excursion.—*Manod Mawr* (2117

ft.), a round-backed rocky mountain, rises N. of Festiniog and E. of Diffwys, and may be ascended in about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour from either place. Between it and the Manod Bach lies a small tarn—Llyn-y-Manod. The mountain is beset with many slate quarries, and some of the paths leading to them conduct also to the summit. The view commands a wide panorama of mountains, including Snowdon and Moelwyn, while to the W. stretches the vale of the Dwyryd, opening into Tremadoc Bay.

Just outside Festiniog is a road on rt. which runs across the Cynfael to join the Trawsfynydd and Dolgelley road. $4\frac{1}{2}$ m., a little to the l., is an eminence on which were formerly a number of graves called *Beddau-gwyr-Ardudwy* (the graves of the men of Ardudwy). In the time of Gibson, the editor of Camden's 'Britannia,' there were at least 30 headstones, of which now only 2 remain, with but few and faint traces of the Beddau, which were opened and destroyed by some curiosity-hunters deficient in archæological reverence. A Roman road passes through the centre of this graveyard. The track of it comes down to the turnpike road from Festiniog to Bala, and is then lost sight of for a space. This road, which is, in fact, the famous *Sarn Helen*—or, as Drayton calls it, "Saint Hellen's wondrous way"—runs due N., crossing a little river at Rhyd-yr-Helen, or Helen's Ford, and there breasts a very steep hill, on the other side of which it descends through the Cwm Penamnaen to Dolwyddelan (Rte. 12B). Southwards it crosses the hill to Castell *Tomen-y-Mur*, or the station of Heriri Mons (Rte. 22), about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Maentwrog Stat. This is a green mound within an oblong vallum or ditch. About 300 yards N.W., at the junction of 2 Roman roads, is an earthen amphitheatre, 114 ft. by 104 ft. The Helen or Helena com-

memorated in these places was the wife of the Emperor Maximus, the same after whom so many of the works near Segontium were called.

6 m. l. is *Llyn-y-Morwynion*, or the Maidens' Lake, alluded to in the legend of the men of Ardudwy. On rt. is *Rhaiadr Cwm*, a romantic glen, through which the Cynfael makes its way, after falling over a series of deeply-cleft precipices. To see this portion of the stream to advantage the pedestrian should, after visiting the waterfalls close to Festiniog, follow it up past Pont Newydd, and so to *Rhaiadr Cwm*, the whole distance abounding in scenes of thoroughly Welsh and romantic character.

ROUTE 21A.

FESTINIOG TO PENMACHNO AND YSPYTTY IVAN.

$6\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Festiniog a road on l. branches to the N. for nearly 2 m., when it divides on the l. to Penmachno and Llanrwst, and on rt. to Yspytty Ivan and Pentrevoelas. To Penmachno it is 7 m. from Pont-ar-Afon Gam, although there is a shorter mountain lane of 9 m. from the former village to Festiniog. The road is wild and solitary, passing over a large tract of mountain known as Migneint, which gives rise to the Conwy, Tryweryn, and other smaller streams. At $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. the valley of the Machno, whose scenery is comparatively tame, is entered and the l. bank of the river followed to

7 m. *Penmachno*, a prettily-situated village, the houses and 2 small *Inns* are curiously clustered in round the ch., in which are 4 inscribed stones.

It is a good station for anglers who do not mind roughing it, as it is the nearest village to *Llyn Conwy*, the source of river Conwy, between 3 and 4 m. to the S. At Penmachno the stream is crossed, and the road thence follows the rt. bank for $2\frac{1}{4}$ m. to join the great Holyhead road between Pen-trevoelas and Bettws-y-Coed. At the junction of the 2 roads are the Falls of the Machno (Rtes. 12 and 13).

[The 2nd road, equally mountainous and desolate, branches off to the N.E. at Ffynnon Eiddew, 2 m. from Pont-ar-Afon Gam, from which place to Ysptyty Ivan it is $7\frac{1}{2}$ m. At 3 m. the infant Conwy is crossed, soon after it has issued from *Llyn Conwy*, a rather large sheet of water, surrounded on all sides by barren hills. There is good fishing in it, although the number of turbaries or peat-bogs make it somewhat difficult of access. "It contains two perfectly distinct species of trout, one of which, a dark, ugly fish, cuts as red as salmon."—*Cliffe*. The road follows the l. bank of the river to $7\frac{1}{2}$ m. *Ysptyty Ivan*, where in former days stood an 'Hospitium,' or Refuge for travellers over that bleak country, founded by the order of the Knights of Jerusalem. Subsequently the village became the head-quarters of bands of robbers, who devastated the whole district until checked by Meredydd ap Evan, who had taken up his quarters at Dolwyddelan (Rte. 12). The ch. contains 3 monumental figures commemorating Rhys Fawr ap Meredydd, Henry VII.'s standard-bearer at the battle of Bosworth; his son, Robert ap Rhys, chaplain to Cardinal Wolsey; and 3rd, Lowry, wife of the last-named. From Ysptyty Ivan it is $2\frac{1}{4}$ m. to Pentrevoelas (Rte. 13.).]

ROUTE 22.

FESTINIOG, OR TAN-Y-BWLCH, TO
DOLGELLEY, BY TRAWSFYNYDD
AND TYN-Y-GROES. THE VALE
OF THE MAWDDACH. CYMMER
ABBEY.

The Railway (Rte. 21) may be taken from Festiniog to Trawsfynydd Stat., but as the rest of the way must be travelled in a hired carriage or on foot, it may be better to secure one at once at Festiniog. The distance about 18 m.

Maentwrog and Tan-y-Bwlch in the Vale of the Dwyryd, which the Rly. leaves on the rt., are described in Rte. 21.

6 m. *Trawsfynydd Stat.* on the Bala Rly. (*Inn*: Cross Foxes, very comfortable, but homely, good cooking), a village situated on a hill, in the midst of rather desolate and bleak scenery. Here is the watershed of the rivers flowing respectively towards the Traeth and Barmouth. The ch. was restored in 1855. In the place itself there is nothing to detain the tourist, but the angler and antiquary will both find plenty of occupation. The lakes in the vicinity partly belong to Sir W. H. Wynn, and partly to the Crown. They are generally small, but are nearly all tolerably full of trout, perch, and pike. To the E. the most accessible lakes are, Llyn Trywern (Rte. 21), Llyn-y-garn, Llyn-rhythlyn, noted for its singular breed of perch; while on the W. are a number of small ones, situated near the summits of Diphwys and Y Graig Ddrwg.

Excursions.

§ a. A bridle-road of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. in length leads E. to *Castell Tomen-y-Mur*, the Roman station of *Heriri Mons*, through which the *Sarn Helen* runs in its course from *Cardiganshire* to *Conovium*. It is of oblong shape, with rounded angles, about 500 ft. long, by 350 broad, and slopes down towards the S.E., so that the lower part is partially protected from the west winds. On the N.E. side were two entrances. It derives its name, *Tomen-y-Mur*, 'Tumulus in the Wall,' from a large mound within the camp, possibly sepulchral in its first intention, but included by the Romans in the defensive works, which had their first origin in the hint it gave of a commanding look-out. Near the camp has been found an amphitheatre, with two entrances opposite each other, 114 ft. in diameter, the thickness of the mound being 21 ft., and the height from 10 to 12 ft. It stands near the Rly. about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from *Maentwrog Stat.* In 1884, Canon Thomas discovered E. of this considerable remains: a large square protected by a vallum, and earthworks.

§ b. 4 m. up the valley of the *Afon Prysor* is *Castell Prysor*, a ruined mediæval fort, placed on a rocky eminence. A portion of rude wall is all that remains, a great part having been thrown down some years ago by the country people in search of treasure. "It is supposed that this fort was suddenly fortified on an emergency; urns and Roman coins have been found in the vicinity."—*Cliffe*.

The road is continued to the head of *Cwm Prysor*, and near *Llyn Trywern* joins the *Festiniog* and *Bala* road (Rte. 21).

From *Trawsfynydd* a singularly straight road descends to *Dolgelley*, 15 m., through the valley formed by the *Eden*, *Cain*, and *Camlan* rivers, which, joining about 2-3rds

of the way down with the *Mawddach*, flows under that name to *Barmouth*. This valley is especially lovely, the principal features being long ranges of hills, at the base of which the rivers flow in deep and richly-wooded dingles. The hills on the E. form an irregular group, thrown off on the N. by the *Arennigs*, and on the S. by *Rhobell Fawr*. Numbers of narrow dells and ravines open out, each with its tributary streamlet, and many of them offering great attractions in the shape of waterfalls, which are remarkably beautiful and abundant in this part of North Wales. One of the most beautiful of these streams is the *Mawddach*, the upper portion of which can be reached by climbing *Rhobell Fawr*, and descending on the N.E. side.

The views on the road to *Dolgelley* are striking, and *Cader Idris* is often a grand feature in the background; but from the confined and contracted valley the pedestrian will, perhaps, find it rather monotonous, and will hail with relief the opening into the vale of the *Mawddach*, at *Llanelltyd*. The strata of the mountains on each side of the vale of *Eden* consist of *Cambrian* grits, throwing off from the central boss the *Lingula* flags. "The instructed eye can readily see on the cliffs of *Rhinog Fawr* and *Craig Ddrwg* the great terraced lines of hard grit dipping westward; and on the opposite hand the same *Cambrian* strata dipping E. in the broken slopes of *Craig-y-Penmaen*. From bottom to top the masses of strata succeed each other, like as it were the concentric coats of an onion."—*Ramsay*.

$\frac{1}{2}$ m. The pedestrian will take lane to l. and soon find himself on the pavement of the Roman road, *Sarn Helen*, which he will follow along the ridge, down to *Pont-ar-Eden*. The rocky ramparts, *Ardudwy*, on rt. form a grand mountain background.

7 m., rt., a little distance from the road, is an erect stone (Maen-llwyd); and at 8 m. a road l. leads into the valley of the Cain to 1 m. *Llech Idris*, a maenhir about 10 ft. high, called after the giant Idris. Near it is *Bedd Porius*, "the grave of Porius," on which is an inscribed stone, containing, it is said, the earliest Christian inscription known in Wales. According to Gibson, in his additions to Camden, the inscription ran—
 PORIUS HIC IN TUMULO JACIT HOMO
 PLANUS FUIT.

On the hill-side, near the junction of this by-road with the main road, is *Rhiw-goch*, a curious old mansion-house, formerly belonging to the family of Lloyd, descended from Llywarch ap Bran, one of the 15 tribes of North Wales. It passed by marriage into the Gwydir family, and thence into the Wynns of Wynnstay. A portion of the house is of the beginning of the 17th cent.

A little before the road crosses the Eden at Pont-dol-Gefeiliau, 11¼, the pedestrian may breast the hill on his l., and descend on the other side to the waterfalls of Pistyll Cain and Rhaiadr Mawddach. By so doing he will save a long walk up the river from Tyn-y-Groes. From the falls he can follow the path through the wood, and join the road again at Tyn-y-Groes.

At 13 m., a little below the confluence of the Eden and Mawddach, the Camlan river flows in at Pont-ar-Camlan. A path to the rt. of the road leads up for more than ½ m. to *Rhaiadr Du*, a very fine double fall of about 60 ft. It is within the grounds of Dolymelynlyn (C. R. Williams, Esq.), and is formed of the dashing waters of the Garfa, a mountain torrent which rushes by separate channels or fissures in the rocky bed in a downward course of 50 feet, amidst a fringe of dark trees

on either side, from one black pool into another.

13¾ m. *Tyn-y-Groes*, a neat little Inn overlooking the river (Oakley Arms), tenanted during the summer principally by anglers and artists. It is also resorted to on account of the 2 pretty waterfalls in its vicinity. A little above the inn is a wooden foot-bridge over the Mawddach, which the visitor should ascend on the E. or l. bank, keeping along the base of the bluff hill of Penrhos.

From Tyn-y-Groes to *Rhaiadr Mawddach* is at least 3 m. This fall occurs a little above the junction of the latter river with the Cain. It descends about 60 ft. over a rock, "the strata of which lying in parallel lines, several degrees inclined from the horizon, give the scene a singular and crooked appearance."—*Bingley*. Cross the Mawddach, and the next fall is soon in sight, *Pistyll Cain*, which, as far as height goes (over 150 ft.), is by far the best of the series, though it is only seen to advantage after heavy rains, and though it may be conceded that Rhaiadr Mawddach is the more picturesque. The strata are horizontal on the face of the rock, looking like a series of steps. The visitor should return on the opposite bank to that by which he came. In the hill-sides above the Mawddach there are several copper-mines, which at different times have yielded, besides copper, no inconsiderable quantity of gold. The principal mines in this district are Cwm Eisen, the Turf, Tydding Gladws, and Dolfrwynog. From the latter in particular it has been extracted in extraordinary richness, 14½ oz. of gold having been obtained from 100 lbs. weight of quartz. The metal occurs in veins and cross courses parallel and at right angles to the Cambrian rocks, which run N. and S. The amount yielded in general does not appear to pay for the search and ex-

action. The hills, which were at the time very beautifully wooded, have been laid bare by the axe in the most ruthless manner.

15 m. The l. bank or E. side of the Mawddach, which has now put off its impetuous mood and has become a peaceful river, rises in a lofty and deep escarpment, extending more than a mile. It deserves notice, because along the face of it, at a great height, runs the *Precipice Walk*, within the grounds of *Nannau* (John Vaughan, Esq.), overshadowed by the peak of Moel Orthwrw or Gwfrwm (see Rte. 3).

As the road descends towards the village of *Llanelltyd* (so called from its ch. dedicated to St. Illtyd, which serves for the needs of a wide-read parish), one of the most exquisite and charming views in Wales opens upon the tired wanderer. The Mawddach enters the broad vale which bears its name, and offers a striking contrast to the narrow angle through which it has hitherto been flowing.

In front rises the picturesque and precipitous range of Cader Idris from its mighty head, sending down numerous subordinate corries and boulders, clothed with wood down to the very edge of the water, while the softer banks of the river, or rather estuary, are dotted with many pretty residences and villas.

At the opening of the valley our road, separating from that to Barmouth, turns l., crossing the Mawddach on a stone bridge, close to Llanelltyd village, where another road turns l. to *Cymmer* (properly *anner*) *Abbey*. A more lovely spot for the site of a religious house cannot be imagined, and, if only for resting the eyes upon the landscape, a visit to this *Abbey* would well pay. An establishment for monks of the Cistercian order was founded here by Meredydd and Gruffydd, sons

of Cynan, about 1198. Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, is known to have been a great benefactor. The abbey stands on the edge of the Hengwrt grounds in a meadow above the junction ('Cymmer') of the Wnion with the Mawddach, a short furlong from the Llanelltyd bridge, 2 m. from Dolgelley. The enclosure, now a farmhouse, is entered by an old avenue of limes. The abbey, never large, boasts but scant remains. The lower story of the W. tower is standing, with diagonal buttresses at its angles. The west door is a modern opening. The N. and S. walls of the Ch. are almost entirely wanting.

The nave and choir, continuous and without aisles or transept, are 110 ft. long by 17 wide. In the E. end are three long lancets. Above are the traces of three other openings. In the S. wall is a pointed piscina with rude mouldings, and next to it a large tomb-recess, piercing the wall, and having a late four-centred arch. Beyond this are three pointed Norman sedilia. Beyond is the cloister-door of the same age, with a pointed arch. At the W. end are three good equilateral arches with chamfered ribs and octagonal piers, opening into a sort of aisle shut out from the rest of the Church, but running up to the E. end as a lean-to. At the W. end rises a tower, and near it the Abbot's Hall or Guesten House, still inhabited, and some other abbatial buildings.

At Llanelltyd the road joins the Barmouth road. A little after passing the gate on l. which leads to the abbey, is *Hengwrt*, a very beautifully situated residence of the late Sir Robert Vaughan, who on his death bequeathed it to 3 sisters (Misses Lloyd) for their lives. It adjoins the property and grounds of Nannau. The collection of MSS. known as the Hengwrt MSS. is famous amongst antiquaries, and has been removed

to Peniarth (Rte. 25). By the high road which ascends the rt. bend of the Wnion, the tourist arrives at

18½ m. **Dolgelley**, entering the town by a bridge over the Bala and Barmouth Rly., close to the Station, and by another over the river Wnion (*Inns*: Ship; Lion). This centre of lovely scenery, at the foot of Cader Idris, is fully described in Rte. 3. Near the Ship Hotel stood the old house of Baron Owen, popularly known as the Parliament House. Here Owain Glydwr is said to have assembled a parliament in 1404, when he formed an alliance with Charles, King of France. Old Fuller quaintly describes Dolgelley as having walls 3 miles high, by which he implied that it was surrounded by mountains: also that men must enter it over the water and leave it under the water. The latter enigma is explained by there being a path leading out of the town which is carried under a water trough from a mill. A considerable trade is carried on in the manufacture of a coarse kind of woollen cloth, which goes by the name of 'Welsh webs;' this, together with currying and tanning, gives employment to a good number of people.

Distances.—Corwen, 30 m.; Machynlleth, 16½; ditto, by Towyn, 34; Aberdovey, 24; Towyn, 20, but by hill road 16¼; Barmouth, 10; Harlech, 20; Trawsfynydd, 13; Tan-y-Bwlch, 18½; Festiniog, 18; Pistyll Cain Waterfall, 8½; Cader Idris, 5; Torrent Walk, 2; Tal-y-Llyn, 8; Cymmer Abbey, 2; Dinas Mawddwy, 10 m.

ROUTE 22A.

DOLGELLEY TO TOWYN, BY TAL-Y-LLYN, CORRIS, AND MACHYNLLETH.—ROAD AND RAIL.

The road ascends out of the Wnion valley by a continuous rise for 1½ m., passing l. the lower entrance to the Torrent Walk, skirting upwards the wood in which it lies, as far as the exit from it, a little short of the Lodge of Caerynweh, Mrs. Richards, to whom it belongs, and very near to

3½ m. *The Cross Foxes Inn*. Here the road to Dinas Mawddwy branches l. from that to Towyn, which, following the brook of the Torrent Walk, now crosses an open marshy tract, creeps along under the stern precipices of Cader Idris, and through the grand *Pass of Bwlch Llyn*, between 2 high beetling black precipices on rt. Craig-y-Llam, the Rock of the Leap. The little tarn close to the road-side on l. is *Llyn Trigraienyn*, or the Lake of the Three Grains, from 3 large stones which lie near it, detached from the rocks above. The legend is, that the giant Idris, finding some pebbles in his shoe, took them out and flung them to their present position. A most exquisite view now opens out over the lovely Tal-y-Llyn, the resort of innumerable anglers and artists, attracted by the beauty and variety of the scenery.

Here the road divides—one branch runs along the N. shore of Tal-y-Llyn, a pretty sheet of water 1 m. long and ½ m. broad, shut in by rocky crags. It discharges its water under the Bridge of Pen-y-Bont near which are two little *Inns*—Tyn Cornel H., where boats are

pt, and Pen-y-Bont H. Aber-nolwyn Stat. (Rte. 25) is 3 m. tant.

3 m. The road to Machynlleth, er approaching very near to the e, turns sharply to the l., and nding in zigzags over the brow of ill descends into the valley of the rris or Corys. The mountains ough which this little river runs ualuable for their slate-quarries, ny of which have been opened, ing employment to a large number quarrymen, and causing a long-etching populous village to grow

“The vein is of an intense blue our, and is so dense, strong, and rable, that it was selected for the fs of the National Gallery and er large structures.”

Railway from Corris to Machynh, 5 trains daily, conveys the tes, to Aberdovey (Rte. 25), to shipped.

10½ m. *Aber Corris*, where a ch. been built for the accommodation the workmen. From hence the road traverses the vale of the las, through river and woodland nery of great beauty, although of y different character from that t passed through.

9½ m. *Corris Stat.* at Braich Goch. onfell, on opposite bank of the er, is the seat of J. Morris, Esq. 11 m. Esgair Geiliog Stat. Esgair . M. Lewis, Esq.).

13 m. Llwyngwern Stat. (F. Ford, q.). The river Dovey is crossed a bridge of 5 arches before entering 16 m. *Machynlleth Stat.*, by the titidion Bridge (see Rte. 28).

Machynlleth (pronounced Mahunth) is a town of little interest (Pop. 00), of unusually wide streets, in open country far from the high ountains, on the l. bank of the yey, here crossed by a bridge of 5 hes. In the Market-place is a dern Clock-tower. The only torical event to record here is the onation of Owain Glyndwr in

1403 as Prince of Wales, at a Parliament of his supporters here convened.

Plas Machynlleth, seat of Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry, is entered from the town, and near the Lodge gate is a very pretty Gothic *Church*, built 1881.

There is little cause to detain the traveller here. There are

Railways to Montgomery and Shrewsbury (Rte. 26); to Aberystwyth (Rte. 28); to Towyn, Barmouth, Harlech, and Tremadoc (Rte. 24).

The rly. from Machynlleth descends the l. bank of the Dovey to *Glandovey Junct.*, where it divides, rt. leading to Towyn and *Barmouth* (Rte. 24), l. to *Aberystwyth* (Rte. 28).

ROUTE 23.

DOLGELLEY TO DINAS MAWDDWY
BY ROAD, AND TO CEMMAES ROAD
JUNCT.—DINAS MAWDDWY TO
BALA.

10 m. to Dinas; 7 to Cemmaes.
As far as Cross Foxes, see Route 22.

The road then ascends a pass under the cliffs of Craig-y-Bwlch (rt.) to (6 m.) Bwlch Oerdrws, a long and steep rise up to top of the Pass. On this ascent there is a very fine view towards Dolgelley, Barmouth, and Cader Idris. Its people for the most part find employment in the slate quarries.

The road then descends the valley of the Ceryst, passing 7 m. Pennant, where there is a waterfall. 9 m. rt,

a little stream flows in from a romantic amphitheatre of mountains called Craig-Maes-y-Glasiau, in the centre of which is another very good cascade, and on entering the village, on l. is the fine mansion erected by Sir Edmund Buckley, Bt.

10 m. *Dinas Mawddwy* (Inns: Buckley Arms H., close to station; and at Mallwyd, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., the Peniarth Arms—Rte. 26), a singular village-town, remarkable for its situation. It is placed on the shelf of a very steep mountain, which rises to a considerable height on the l., and overlooking the Dyfi, which flows at the base, in the shape of a bow, at its confluence with the Cerist. This position can scarcely be surpassed in beauty, commanding as it does the 3 vales of the Cerist, the upper and lower Dyfi. To judge by the present mean appearance of the village, the tourist would scarcely imagine that Dinas Mawddwy was one of the 5 independent lordships of Wales which were exempt from paying tribute to the prince, and that it maintained all the state of a corporation and mayor, the latter official being still annually elected.

[*Dinas Mawddwy* to *Bala* is 16 m. of most wild country, through the upper part of the vale of Dyfi, and down by Cwm Cynllwyd. The peaked summit of Aran Mawddwy forms a grand background as the tourist proceeds up the narrowing vale; and with its jagged outlines, and savage *cwm*s and precipices, presents a very different aspect to what it, together with Aran Benllyn, shows on the W. side, overlooking the Dolgelley road. At the foot of Aran Benllyn is a small lake containing trout.

1 m. There is a pretty cascade at Aber Cowarch, where the river Cowarch joins the Dyfi, having its rise in Hen Gwm, a grand semicircular

'corrie' beneath the summit of *Aran*. An easy, though rather laborious ascent, may be made from Aber Cowarch, by breasting the slope Moel-yr-Hydd, and following the brow of a hill to Dyrysgol, from whence a narrow ledge, somewhat similar to the Black Ladders of Ceredigion, leads to the summit, 2955 ft. above the sea. On either side the ledge the visitor looks down into fearfully deep *cwm*s, the one to the S. giving rise to the Cowarch, and the other to the N. to the Dyfi, which issues from Creiglyn Dyfi, a small lake, singular in possessing no fish, but a large stock of lizards, though trout are caught a quarter of a mile from it. There is an unusually large cairn on the summit of the mountain, which was raised by the peasants of the neighbourhood on hearing that Cader Idris was 6 ft. higher than *Aran*, which they determined should not be excelled on the score of height. They might have spared their trouble, however, as *Aran* is the highest by 41 ft. The views are extremely fine, particularly towards the N., embracing the Snowdon and Festiniog ranges in the distance, with the Arennigs, the Iwerdwy, and lake of Bala nearer home. In the S.W. is the Cader Idris range, while Plinlymmon's mighty bulk fills up the landscape due S. A little to the N. is the peak of Aran Benllyn, a continuation of, and scarcely lower than, Aran Mawddwy. From it the mountain descends in a succession of shoulders down to the lake, or Llyn Tegid (Rte. 3).

4 m. is the retired little village *Llan-y-Mawddwy*, the *Church* of which, embosomed in fine yew-trees (one of the largest in Wales), is dedicated to Tydecho, whose name ("Gwely Tydecho") is to be seen on a Pennant. A little farther on a rock, are 5 holes of the shape of a cross, said to be the imprints

the saint's foot. There is a waterfall on the Pumryd, which flows from Bwlch-y-Glasgod on the N. of Llan-y-Mawddwy. At 7 m. the watershed of this wild mountain road is reached at *Bwlch-y-Croes*, the Pass of the Cross, where in former times a crucifix called to the mind of the pious pilgrim the propriety of returning thanks for having surmounted the perils, formerly more than Alpine, of this northern region. The road, which at this spot is in the 2 counties of Merioneth and Montgomery, now rapidly descends the gorge of the Twrch, which at 10 m. is joined by a rapid mountain stream issuing from Cwm Croes. The Twrch has often been noted for many severe floods, which, rushing down the narrow vale, have spread destruction on reaching the lowlands.

At 12 m. we reach

Llanuwchllyn Stat., on the rly. from Bala to Dolgelley (Rte. 3).]

From *Dinas Mawddwy* to *Machynlleth*, 12 m., the Rly. passes down the least interesting part of the valley.

To the S. of *Dinas Mawddwy* the granitic beds set in, whilst the Bala sandstone crops out in the river Dyfi. The traveller can take the rail, which follows the course of the Dyfi river, between *Dinas Mawddwy* and

Aberangell Stats., 1 m. on l., is the charming village of *Mallwyd* (Rte. 26). *Aberangell* is situated at the junct. of the Angell branch with the Dyfi.

Passing l. *Aberhiriarth Hall*, the line reaches

6 m. *Cemmaes* Stat., and at *Cemmaes Road* forms a junction with the Cambrian system from *Whitnash* to

Aberystwyth and N. Wales (Rte. 28).

Between *Cemmaes* and *Mallwyd* and *Cemmaes* and *Machynlleth* the river is a favourite resort of anglers for salmon and sewin, the autumn months being the best time for sport.

ROUTE 24.

CAERNARVON OR PWLLHELI TO DOLGELLEY, BY CRICCIETH, PORTMADOC, HARLECH, AND BARMOUTH—CAMBRIAN RAILWAY.

Continuous rly., following the coast line, 3 or 4 trains daily in about $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. From *Caernarvon* to *Afonwen* Junct., this rly. is described in Rte. 14.

$1\frac{1}{4}$ m. from *Pwllheli* is the village of *Abererch*. On l. is the ch., a picturesque ivy-covered building, with a remarkably long N. aisle and a bell-tower.

$4\frac{1}{2}$ m. *AFONWEN* JUNCT., rt. runs the line to *Pwllheli*, l. to *Criccieth*. Grand views open out along the shore of *Tremadoc Bay*.

6 m. the *Dwyfach* and *Dwyfawr* rivers are crossed at the village of *Llanystumdwy*, a sweetly-situated little spot, with a modern ch., Dec. in style. On l. is *Gwynfryn* (H. J. Ellis Nanney, Esq.).

8 m. *Criccieth* Stat. (Inns: *George*; *White Lion*), a small modern water-

ing-place, having good and well-situated houses. Between the stat. and the sea, rise the ruins of a *Castle* on a tongue of high rock running out into the sea. These are now enclosed by Lord Harlech, and the key may be obtained at Castle House, close to the entrance gate. The principal apartments were in the round towers flanking the main entrance, the space enclosed by the walls of the building being an irregular trapezium. This gateway, with its 2 rather massive towers, and a few fragments of wall, are all that is now left of it. It is said to have been built by Edward I. in 1286, but it is more likely that he only repaired it. The views from the mount, as well as from the whole of the route between Pwllheli and Criccieth of the opposite coast, are extensive and beautiful. Indeed, for quiet folk Criccieth is a desirable watering-place, for the sake of its pure air, and facilities for pedestrian or rly. excursions.

From hence the rly., partly shut out from the sea by intervening heights, but commanding grand views inland of the mountains Moel Wyn, Moel Hebog, and the pointed Cynicht, runs to

13 m. *Portmadoc Junct. Stat.*, after passing 1 m. l. the villages of Penmorfa and Tremadoc (see Rte. 19, where some account of the reclaimed land of the Traeth Mawr and Embankment of the sea are given).

A steamer occasionally plies from Portmadoc to Bardsey Island (see Rte. 16).

From Portmadoc the line crosses the Traeth Mawr, and enters the promontory of Penrhyn, running alongside the Traeth Bach.

The *Miniature or Toy Rly.* from Portmadoc to Tan-y-Bwlch and Festiniog (Rte. 20) runs some distance parallel to the Cambrian.

Minffordd Junct. Stat. From this

admire the splendid views of Snowdon, not surpassed in N. Wales. Here the slates from Festiniog are collected, and waggons filled with them cover acres of ground. The stations of the 2 lines are close together. Tan-y-Bwlch Hotel is 4 m. distant from this by road and Maentwrog Inn, 3½ m.

16 m. *Penrhyn Deudraeth Stat.* Here the Cambrian Rly. Stat. adjoins that of the Festiniog Miniature Rly. (Rte. 20). Deudraeth Castle is the seat of Mrs. Williams. On quitting this stat. the train crosses the estuary of the Traeth Bach.

[On l. lies the village of *Llandecwyn*, perched high up on the mountains about midway between the lakes, *Llyn Tecwyn Uchaf* and *Isaf*. The scenery of these lakes is well worth exploring. They are full of fish, but are so much poached by the quarrymen as to spoil all sport. As the tourist is now entering the district of Ardudwy, it will be well to acquaint himself with the features of the immense block of mountain running from Maentwrog to Barmouth, and separating the Harlech country from all the eastern portions of Merionethshire. Although they all constitute the same group without a single break, they are called by different names according to the most prominent points. Between Llandecwyn and Harlech are *Craig-ddrwg* and *Diffwys*, to the l. of which are the *Rhinogs* and *Lleth*, while the long ridge running from hence to Barmouth has the general appellation of *Llawllech*. From the height above Diffwys may be seen a fine prospect of the Caernarvonshire promontory of Llyn, of the Bay of Cardigan, Cader Idris, and other mountains. The whole of the group are full of lakes, which give birth on either side to numerous small streams. The geology of this district is very interesting, though it can only l

studied on a large scale. The great mass of these rocks is formed of Cambrian grit, which rises in a dome or boss, the Merionethshire anticlinal of Prof. Sedgwick. The centre of this anticlinal is a little to the N. of Llawllech, from which the rocks dip readily.]

The river Dwyryd is crossed by the rly. on a long, low wooden bridge. It descends from the Vale of Festiniog. A wondrous view of mountains in the direction of Snowdon, Cynicht, Moelwyn, is enjoyed from the rly., which soon makes a sharp bend S., skirting the shore of Traeth Bach.

18 m. *Tal-y-Sarnau Stat.* is close to the village so called, traversed by the high road from Harlech to Maentwrog and Festiniog.

On l. is *Glyn Cowarch*, an Elizabethan house belonging to Lord Harlech, and the residence of Mr. Lawford. A little higher up is *Maes-y-Neuadd* (the seat of John Nanney, Esq.), the grounds of which extend along a high bank of rock, and command most splendid views over the Traeth and the Snowdon range.

The rly. traverses the coach-road overlooking the extensive alluvial flat of *Morfa Harlech*, which has been drained and cultivated, and contains some good farms.

21½ m. *Harlech Stat.* lies on the low alluvial flat, out of which the Castle rock rises, like a wall, close to the Sally Postern or Water Gate. It is a work of no little difficulty to surmount the very steep hill leading up to town and Castle, especially with luggage. (*Inns*: Castle, admirably placed on the height close to the Castle, a good house, but make your bargain; Blue Lion, of a humbler grade, but good.)

Harlech, though an ancient place and the county-town of Merioneth,

is but a village of 750 Inhabitants, remarkable solely for its grand **Castle**,* but charmingly situated, commanding one of the most splendid sea-views in Wales, including Snowdon, the whole of the coast of Llyn, with its conspicuous heights of Carn Madryn, Carn Boduan, and Yr Eifl. It is a thriving place, with a Ch. built 1814, 4 chapels, schools, &c.

Whatever early fortress or stronghold may have occupied this commanding height in Celtic or Roman days, the present *Castle* is of the time of Edward I., and from the designs of Henry de Elreton, the architect of Caernarvon Castle, to which, however, it is inferior in everything save situation. More than the usual amount of hard blows was the lot, at different times, of the castle of Hardlech, or Hardelagh, as it was called. In 1404 it was taken by Owain Glyndwr, who, a few years later, was ousted by Prince Henry. During the Wars of the Roses, the brave governor, Davydd ap Ifan, afforded an honourable asylum to Margaret of Anjou, Queen of Henry VI., and the Prince of Wales, after the battle of Northampton. It is recorded of this governor, that, on being summoned to surrender by Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, he replied that he had held a fortress in France until all the old women in Wales had heard of it, and now he intended to hold Harlech till all the old women in France heard of it. Eventually, after a long siege, the brave defenders were forced to capitulate, and the whole district was then at the mercy of the King, Edward IV.

During the Civil Wars Harlech was alternately gained by Royalist and Parliamentary armies, and was finally invested by Gen. Mytton in 1647. A constable is still appointed by the Crown. The castle occupies a bold projecting platform of rock, standing out from the coast-line of

* See George Clark's 'Mediæval Military Architecture of England,' 2 vols., 8vo., 1884.

Merioneth above the alluvial plain of Morfa Harlech. Five centuries back, when the Traeth was an estuary, Harlech, like Criccieth now, was approached, and probably got its supplies, by water. The sea has now retired fully $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the foot of the precipice, which rises 200 ft. above the sea-level, and in full view of the highest mountains of N. Wales, Snowdon, Moel Hebog, Cynicht, and Moelwyn.

It is an Edwardian castle, quadrangular and concentric. In the centre of the E. or land side is the gate-house, a rectangle, being two half-rounds to the E., flanking the entrance, and two drum towers to the W., capping the angles. The entrance passage is about 50 ft. long, and within were three portcullis grates. Two of the grates were worked from a small chapel, the elegant E. window of which is above the main entrance. In the arches overhead are seen the holes whence hung the sheaves for working the grates. The inner ward, 210 ft. square, is enclosed by 4 curtain walls 40 ft. high by 12 ft. thick, and capped at the angles by bold drum towers, from the two western of which spring loftier stair turrets, also circular.

The hall and some other buildings occupied the W. of the court, with windows looking seaward. The principal chapel, 18 ft. by 12 ft., is built against the N. wall, and had a good E. window. The Eastern curtains on each side the gate-house are curious. That to the S. contains two tiers of mural garde-robes opening from the gate-house; and others, projected outwards from the N. wall, have fallen down.

The innerward stands within a narrow outer ward, also quadrangular, having six low drum bastions at the angles: on the S. face a half-round segmental bastion corbelled out: in the centre of the north face two half-

round bastions flanking a postern; and on the E. face, which has a salient, two round turrets also corbelled out, which flank the main entrance. This ward is very narrow, about 8 to 12 ft., except to the sea, where there is a broader platform. It is surrounded by a light parapet wall. At the main entrance this ward is traversed by a bridge pit, apparently covered by a bridge dropping from the outer gateway inwards. The two gateways are opposite and not 30 ft. apart. The parapet of the outer ward crowns a wall, which on the E. and S. faces is the scarp of the ditch. This defence, broad and deep, is quarried in the rock on the E. and S. sides, and runs out upon the natural slope at either end. A modern causeway, carrying the main approach, evidently represents an original bridge, either of stone, with a bridge pit replacing the crown of an arch, or of timber.

The postern opens on a shelving platform of rock covering the N. front, and commanded by a curtain which descends from the N.E. bastion towards the end of the ditch. From the postern, a road led round the N.W. angle of the wall along the seaward front to the S.W. angle where it descended to a strong gateway, containing a drawbridge, beyond which an open gallery protected by a looped parapet led along and down the face of the cliff to a duly fortified *water-gate*, at the sea-level. This gallery is further defended by two blocks of masonry, probably one parapeted, and stepped into the face of the rock above.

The entrance passage is the only vault in the place; all the floors were of timber.

There is much analogy between this castle and Caerphilly, both in general plan and in certain details, but the defences of its water-gate are quite peculiar. No well has been discovered: possibly leaden pipe

conveyed water underground from the adjacent heights, and a stream may have been conducted from the hill behind, to fill the moat.—*G. C.*

Taken as a ruin, Harlech lacks the beauty of detail found in Conway or Beaumaris. It is altogether smaller, ruder, and more simple in plan than any of the other Edwardian castles, neither is it so well kept.

When the survey was made in Henry VIII.'s reign, there were two drawbridges leading towards the sea, and extensive outer works leading to the way from the marsh. At various times antiquities have been exhumed near Harlech, and amongst them a celebrated gold torque, which was purchased by Lord Mostyn, and is now preserved at Mostyn Hall. The siege which the castle underwent in the 15th cent. gave rise to the celebrated air of the 'March of the Men of Harlech,' one of the most stirring and characteristic effusions of Welsh musical genius. Just underneath the castle, and extending to a considerable distance northward, is the singular level known as *Morfa Harlech*, or Harlech Marsh, which has evidently been created by the gradual retiring of the sea, which once washed the castle rock.

Conveyances.—Rail to Barmouth, and Dolgelley, and Pwllheli.

Distances.—Tan-y-Bwlch, 10 m.; Cwm Bychan, 5; Drws Ardudwy, 10; Bwlch-y-Tyddiad, 7; Llanbedr, 3; Llanaber, 8; Barmouth, 10 m.

[An *Excursion* may be made to Cwm Bychan (5½ m. from Llanbedr) by crossing the ridge of hills immediately behind Harlech, and striking into the road from Llanbedr up the valley of the Artro. A lane runs straight up the hill, on the summit of which there is a bridle-road to l., which take, and thus reach Cwm Bychan, 6½ m., in less time than by going into the glen.

[*N. Wales.*]

It is a delightful walk from Harlech, commanding fine sea-views the whole way. A grand range of mountains intervenes between the sea and the Vale of the Mawddach; their names from N. to S. are Craig Ddrwg (above Harlech), Rhinog Fawr and Fach, Moelfre, and Diffwys, all 2000 to 2400 ft. high.]

About 2 m. from Harlech is the old Parish Church of *Llandanwg*, fast falling to decay, but which might be repaired for 80l. It is only 50 feet long, choir and nave one chamber, with different roofs.

23½ m. *Pensarn* Stat., whence the conchologist should visit *Mochras*, a tongue of land about 1½ m. distant, divided from the mainland by the estuary of the Artro. Many rare and beautiful shells have been picked up here after rough weather at sea.

In the village of Llanbedr (*Inn: Victoria*), 1 m. from Pensarn Stat., is a *Maenhir*, and near it a fragment inscribed with spiral ornaments. On the rising ground on l. of the road is a cromlech. Probably in no district in Wales are there so many of these old stone memorials scattered about as in the next 2 m., there being no less than 6 in fair preservation on the slopes of the hills running down from Llethr.

From Llanbedr *Excursion* may be made to the Pass of Drws Ardudwy (Rte. 24A).

26½ m. *Dyffryn* Stat. 2 m. from this, part of the way through a long avenue bordered with limes, is *Cors-y-Gedol* (Edw. F. Coulson, Esq.), the ancient family-seat of the Vaughans, who were descended from Osborn or Osber, an Irish nobleman, who obtained possession of territory in Merionethshire. The existing mansion is chiefly modern, but the ceiling of the great hall, like that at Gwydir, is said to be not later than Henry the VIII.'s date. In

the house is preserved some old furniture; a bedstead taken from a wrecked vessel, one of the great Armada squadron, and fine paintings by *Rubens*, *Rembrandt*, *Reynolds*, *Hogarth* (the Strolling Players), *Turner*, &c. The house is shown in the absence of the family. The gatehouse, like that at Gwyn, near Harlech, is said to be after a design by Inigo Jones, as is also the Cors-y-gedol chapel in the parish church. The situation of the house is exposed and very lofty, but commanding splendid sea-views over Cardigan Bay. Near the lodge on the l. is a *Cromlech*, known as *Coetan Arthur*, or Arthur's Quoit, said to have been thrown by that hero from the summit of Moelfre. The impressions of his fingers are visible on the stone. The *Ch. of Llanddwywe* has a chapel containing the tombs of the Vaughan family, now extinct.

[The *Ysgethin* river, which flows into the sea near Llanddwywe, may be followed up for about 3 m. passing *Llyn Irddyn*, a lake of some size on the W. slopes of Llawllech. On the W. shore are remains of a British town, which probably had a connection with the fortified eminence of Craig-y-Ddinas. Near it is Carnedd Hengwm, the burial-place in all probability of the town, with two large cairns, the latter containing six kistvaens. The whole of this rather dreary range abounds in a singular manner with cairns, circles, camps, cyttiaus, and erect stones. 2 m. above Llyn Irddyn is *Llyn Bodlyn*, a fine sheet of water, lying under the crags of Diffwys, the highest point of Llawllech (1900 ft.).

Llyn Dulyn is a small pool, with good fishing, at the very head of the river, under the rocks of Crib-y-Rhiw. It is by far the finest, as regards scenery, of all this group. The southern portion of the range of

Llawllech is crossed by the old mountain road to Dolgelley.]

A very singular and prominent feature in all the sea-views in this district is *Sarn Badrig* or St. Patrick's Causeway, a narrow ridge of rock and pebble, which extends out for a distance of 21 m. from the shore, and is about 24 ft. in breadth. At ebb-tide upwards of 9 m. are left dry, and for a long line beyond the eye can trace the foam which marks its dangerous course. It is very similar to the *Sarn-y-Bwlch*, near Towyn (Rte. 25), and *Sarn Cynfelin* at Aberystwyth, and bears the same legend, viz., that it was one of the gigantic embankments raised in the 6th cent. by Gwyddno Garanhir, to protect the Lowland Hundred from inundations of the sea. By the drunken carelessness of Seithenyn, who was the appointed custodian of these dykes, the waters rushed in and destroyed for ever this fertile and populous district, which numbered more than 12 fortified towns. The legend that a submerged country lies underneath the sea has been wrought into a lively story by the late T. L. Peacock, under the title of the 'Misfortunes of Elphin.' The *Sarn* however, has been pronounced by Professor Ramsay to be a natural formation. This particular *Sarn* is said to have been so named from its being used by St. Patrick as a dry footpath in his journeys to and from Ireland.

29½ m. rt. the small seaside *Church of Llanaber*. This beautiful E. E. ch. of the 13th cent. was for many years in ruins, or in such a state of decay as to preclude the holding of divine service in it. It was restored from designs by Mr. Boyce, 1860 and 1881. The exterior is plain; consists of nave with clerestory, 2 side-aisles and chancel, with single lancet for the E. window. All the beauty of ornament and

noulding has been reserved for the interior. The visitor should particularly notice the exquisite S. doorway. There is also a singular chest which was used for the reception of votive offerings. Against the inside wall, at the N.W. door, is an inscribed stone, marked, with the words 'MONEDO CAELEXTI RIGI, brought from Ceilwart, where it long served as a foot-bridge over a stream.'

31½ m. **Barmouth Stat.**, described in Rte. 3A.

ROUTE 24A.

HARLECH TO DOLGELLEY, CWM BYCHAN LAKE, AND THE PASSES OF BWLCH-Y-TYDDIAD, OR DRWS ARDUDWY.

A pleasant pedestrian journey of 6 or 8 hours, practicable also on a pony. The Cambrian Rly. may be taken as far as Pensarn Stat., near Llanbedr village, where the *Victoria Inn* is a good starting-post (see Rte. 24). Here a trap may be hired as far as Dolwreiddiog.

As the winding road descends the hill into the valley of the Artro, the tourist passes the farmhouse of *Gerddi Bluog*, the birthplace of Archdeacon Prys, author of the metrical version of the Psalms. About ¾ m. S. of the town are the Circles of Muriau Gwyddelod. From Harlech the road descends the hill to

11½ m. *Llanfair*, and at 12 m. approaches the little estuary of the Artro. The ch. at Llanfair contains some modern stained glass. The tourist should not fail to remark the

exquisite scene looking back from Llanfair to Harlech, justly considered one of the most beautiful views in N. Wales. About ½ m. rt., close to the sea-shore, is the ruined ch. of *Llandanwg*, which is fast falling into decay. The interior is still worth a visit, and might at a small expense be restored sufficiently to resist the destructive action of the elements for a long time to come.

13 m. on the banks of the Artro is the pretty little wood-embosomed village of *Llanbedr*, next to Tal-y-Llyn, the best fishing station in Merionethshire.

The *Victoria* is a snug roadside *Inn*, and, for an exploration of the romantic scenery of Glyn Artro and the passes, will suit the traveller better than Harlech. Near the road are two curious pillar stones, and lying beside them an incised stone of great interest.

The road to Cwm Bychan follows the rt. bank of the Artro up to its source in the lake, about 4½ m. At 1 m. the river is joined by the *Nantcol*, up which runs the path to Drws Ardudwy. The road thence winds along a lovely valley at the foot of the Rhinog Fawr, to *Dolwreiddiog*, 'the rooty Meadow,' the farthest point practicable for cars. This is a solitary old Welsh mansion belonging to a family of the name of *Llgerd*, who, it is said, have held uninterrupted possession since the year 1100. This ancient family, which is descended from Owain Gwynedd, had the honour of sending a chief with Rhys ap Imerdydd to Bosworth Field. A small mountain river runs into the Artro, having its source amongst the hills of Craig Ddrwg, in *Llyn Eiddew*, one of a group of lakes which are worth visiting for the wild scenery surrounding them. *Llyn Eiddew Mawr* is the largest of the group; it holds out a good promise of sport, "the trout being small, but of excellent quality."

Between Llyn Caerwych (very large trout) and Llyn Dywarchen a mountain road passes, running from Harlech, N.E., and crossing the pass between Craig Gwynt and Diffwys to Trawsfynydd (Rte. 22). Close to the road is *Bryn Cader Fawr*, a British camp.

The lake of *Cwm Bychan* is situated very finely in a narrow wild glen, shut in on all sides but one, from which the Artro issues. Towering above it is a precipitous mass of rock called *Craig-y-Saeth*, 'the rock of the arrow,' believed to be so called from the fact of the ancient sportsmen watching the deer from hence. It is of great height, and the escarpment is so sudden that from the surrounding hills it is a prominent feature, and to the pedestrian who is crossing the hills at his own sweet will is a capital landmark. The lake itself is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long, and although of grand features the absence of wood gives it a sullen and melancholy character. The fish, like the lake, are shy and sullen. Mr. Cliffe recommends fishing on the S. side, near and under *Craig-y-Saeth*.

The path is carried on the head of the glen, and then turns sharp round again, climbing the hill partly on large flat stones through a narrow rock portal at the top of the *Bwlch-y-Tyddiad*, one of the celebrated entrances into Arddudwy through the lofty range of mountains that shut it out from the remainder of the county. The scenery is really grand here; on either side are the desolate, dark-coloured ridges of Craig Wion and the Rhinog Fawr, which rises on rt. above the pass to a height of 2463 ft. Apart from this scenery this pass is famous for its flight of stone steps, or rather a pavement of untrimmed slabs of slate or of flagstone, laid in order upon the turf, which, though sometimes disconnected, are carried with surprising regularity to the very

summit. A kind of low parapet flanks these stairs on one or both sides. They are generally attributed to the Romans, though they may be more safely classed with 'Ancient British' vestiges. It is something to feast the imagination upon, when ascending this pass, to think that these very steps may have been trodden by the Roman legions in their way from Heriri Mons to the coast districts of Mervinia.

At a considerably higher level on each side of the pass is a lake,—on the l. Llyn-y-Morwynion, 'the Maidens' Lake;' on the rt. *Glynellyn*, 'the Bright Lake,' which has the merit of being the best sporting lake of all the Harlech series. Though very small, it contains very large trout, of a bright golden colour. "Sandpipers frequent this lake in the breeding season. These beautiful little birds are so tame and fearless as to pass within a few inches of your feet at the very edge of the water whilst you are fishing on the shore."—*Notes of an Angler*.

On the E. side of the pass there is a wide and dreary expanse of mountain, sloping down towards the valley of the Eden. The path, however, soon becomes faint and slushy, and the pedestrian will have to use his "bog-trotting powers" more than is pleasant. Keep straight across past the isolated farms, from which a sort of road leads across the Eden at Pont-y-Gribbli, and soon joins the Trawsfynydd and Dolgelley road (Rte. 22).

The latter half of this excursion is not to be recommended.

Pass of Drws Arddudwy. The pedestrian may vary the route very pleasantly by rounding the steep of Rhinog Fawr, keeping that mountain on the right hand, just where a view opens of Cader Idris, and re-entering the mountains by the parallel pass of *Drws Arddudwy*, another natural portal between the mountains

of Rhinog Fawr and Rhinog Fach, the scenery of which is nearly as grand as the other. The same kind of staircase is also visible here, but the steps are not so numerous. The pass is stony beyond measure; nowhere else does such a mass of boulders obstruct the way. A little brook enters the pass on the S. from *Llyn Howell*, a small tarn, magnificently situated amongst the precipices of Llethr, and presenting in its rugged and crater-like aspect features like those of Llyn-y-Cau (Rte. 25). The trout in this lake are said to be deformed.

From the head of the pass the road descends Cwm Nanteol (wrongly called Afon Artro in the Ordnance maps) to follow downwards the course of the Artro by Pen-y-Bont to Llanbedr. At the head of the brook, close to the roadside, is the farmhouse of Maes-y-garnedd, which has the questionable honour of having nursed the regicide Colonel Jones, brother-in-law of Cromwell.

Up to this spot a car can drive. A winding road descends the side of the Nanteol, past its junction with the Artro, down to Llanbedr.

The distance from the Pass of Arudwy to *Tyn-y-Groes* (Rte. 22) is about 14 m.

ROUTE 25.

**DOLGELLEY TO MACHYNLLETH, BY
TOWYN AND ABERDOVEY—RAIL.
BY ROAD TO LLANIDLOES.**

From Dolgelley the Rhuabon, Corwen, and Bala Rly. (G. W.) runs to Penmaen Pool (2 m.) and thence on the S. bank of the Mawddach estuary to Arthog and

BARMOUTH JUNCT., 8 m. (Rte. 3A).

There are 2 roads to Towyn besides

that of the rail. The upper or mountain road ascends to the foot of Cader Idris, and, turning over the spur of Craig Cwm Llwyd, is carried over very bleak and exposed ground to Llanegryn, where the other road joins it. This latter, although longer, is the one recommended to be followed, as it is a better road, and affords magnificent coast and sea views for the greatest part of the way.

1 m. l. are *Brynygwin* and *Bryn Adda*, both of which residences command the exquisite scenery of the Mawddach and the opening of the vale above Llanelltyd. From hence the road gradually rises, keeping on a much higher level than the one on the N. side of the estuary. This latter, however, has the advantage in point of beauty, as it is overlooked by Cader Idris in all its rugged grandeur, while on this side the tourist is too overshadowed to see much of it.

6½ m. *Arthog* Stat., a small chapel and hotel (Rte. 3A). The rock and wood scenery here is very beautiful and diversified.

1 m. to l., between the 2 roads is *Llys Bradwen*, the remains of a palace or residence belonging to Ednowain ap Bradwen, chief of one of the 15 tribes of N. Wales in the time of Gruffydd ap Cynan, in the 11th cent. The ground-plan is that of an oblong building of about 30 yards square. A little higher up is Llyn Cregenan, lying at the foot of Tyrrau Mawr.

At 9 m. the road ascends the cliffs immediately opposite the watering-place of Barmouth. For the next few miles the sea-views over the Bay of Barmouth and the long Rly. Bridge offer a very pleasant contrast to the mountains with which the tourist has been surrounded.

Railway to Towyn.

12 m. is *Llwyngwrl* Stat., a large wretched-looking village in the parish

of Llangelynin. There are several antiquities to reward the patient archæologist on the mountain to the N. and S.E., in the shape of tumuli, cairns, meini-hirion, and a British camp named Castell-y-gaer. The parish ch. of Llangelynin is 2 m. to the S. on the old coast-road to Towyn; it is now deserted, and a new ch. has been built at Llwyngwrl to supply its place.

16 m. *Llanegryn*, the Church of which village is remarkable for a singular Norm. font, and a very beautiful *Roodloft* said untruly to have been brought from Cymmer Abbey. Llanegryn was restored by that excellent landowner and archæologist, the late W. W. E. Wynne, Esq., of *Pemarth*, which stands on the rt. bank of the *Dysyni*, about 1 m. from the ch., and is remarkable for its interesting collection of historic MSS., including the St. Graal, Black Book of Carmarthen, Book of Taliesin, and other antiquities, such as a real old *Welsh* harp brought from Hengwrt.

Rail to Towyn. Cambrian Rly.

Before reaching Towyn the *Dysyni* is crossed. It very soon becomes an estuary, and expands into a considerable pool before it enters the sea. It is supposed that a district along this coast has been at one time submerged, as traces of forest trees have been at intervals exposed at low water. There is, moreover, a long causeway named *Sarn-y-bwch*, "the Buck's Road," which, like *Sarn Badrig* and *Sarn Cynfelin*, is supposed to have been a remnant of the *Cantref-y-gwaelod* or Lowland Hundred. This *Sarn* is known to extend seawards for a distance of 5 m., though there is little doubt that it is the natural ridge of rock and not any artificial formation. Bleak and exposed as these coast-hills are, it

is evident that they were strongly defended by their inhabitants, from the number of camps and forts so abundantly scattered about. Besides those already mentioned, there is a chain of camps on the hill to the N. of the mouth of the *Dysyni*, as also a mound, *Tomen Ddremiog*, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. below the bridge. At *Pont Vathew*, 18 m., l. is a road which leads direct to *Craig Aderyn*, and which should be followed by the tourist from Towyn who does not care to visit Llanegryn Ch. By so doing he will save at least 2 m.

19 m. l. is an erect boundary stone called *Croes Faen*.

20 m. *Towyn* Stat. (*Inn*: *Corbet Arms*), a cleanly, dull town on the sea, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from the sands, which from their fineness and extent induce a considerable number of people, principally of the middle class, to visit it for sea-bathing. Another recommendation to Towyn is the economy of living, which is said to be as reasonable as in any place in the kingdom. The antiquary will be delighted with the *Church of St. Cadfan* (part restd. 1881), perhaps the oldest in N. Wales, an interesting building with an Early Norm. nave. It is cruciform, of considerable size, including nave, chancel, side-aisles, and transepts. The nave is separated from the aisles by immensely massive piers of rude rubble work supporting round arches. Above is a clerestory. The patron saint, *St. Cadfan*, is said to have come from *Armorica* in the 6th cent., and retired to *Bardsey Island*. A very singular inscribed stone, known as *St. Cadfan's stone*, or pillar, is placed within the Ch. It is about 7 ft. long, and is inscribed on all 4 sides with debased Minuscule Roman characters of from the 6th to the 9th cent., its chief interest consisting in the fact that it exhibits a genuine sample of the *Welsh* language centuries earlier than the oldest

MSS. There has been much discussion about this stone. Translated into English, the inscription runs as follows, according to the sides—

“Beneath the mount of Cynvael lies CADVAN,
where
The earth extols his praise. Let him rest
without a blemish.
The body of Cyngen,
And between will be Marciau (or Marks).”

There are some other monumental effigies in the ch., a knight of the 14th cent. (Griffith ap Adda of Dolgoch, near Towyn) and an ecclesiastic of 15th cent. Adjoining it is a well dedicated to St. Cadfan, the water of which is considered a specific in scrofulous and cutaneous diseases.

A little Gothic Church has been built at Brynecrug as a memorial to Mr. Wynne of Peniarth.

Railways.—Rail to Aberdovey, 4 m.; Machynlleth, 14; Pwllheli, 43½ m.

To Abergynolwyn, 6¾ m., a narrow-gauge railway reaching the flanks of Cader Idris and ending 3 m. short of Tal-y-Llyn lake (see Rte. 25A).

Distances.—Dolgelley by coast-road, 20 m.—by mountain-road, 16¼—by Tal-y-Llyn, 24; Tyn-y-Cornel, 16; Llanegryn, 4; Craig Aderyn, 6; Aberystwyth, across the ferry, 15.

The Rly. S. of Towyn runs near the seashore, here fringed by sand-banks and brackish pools, at the foot of wooded hills. It reaches the N. end opening of the estuary of the Dovey, ½ m. wide and stretching 6 m. inland.

Aberdyfi or Aberdovey Stat. (Inn: Dovey Arms), a very pretty and pleasant little watering-place, much frequented by those who prefer quiet and seclusion to bustle. The Corbet Arms, overlooking the sea, built as an Inn, has been let to some Jesuits expelled from France 1880. The town consists of one long strag-

gling street close to the water. The scenery on either side of the estuary is of a lovely character—wooded banks backed up by high ranges of mountains. A good deal of business is done at the port, which is the shipping point for some lead-mines and the slate-quarries of the Corris mountains (Rte. 22). There is a ferry of a little more than a mile across the estuary of the Dyfi, which here divides N. and S. Wales, and for a considerable distance forms the boundary-line of Merionethshire.

Distances.—To Aberystwyth, by ferry, 11 m.; Machynlleth, 10 (direct road); Towyn, 4.

[*Excursions to Aberystwyth, crossing the ferry and joining the rly. at Ynyslas, or else by going round by Glandyfi Junct.*]

From Aberdovey the Rly. makes a circuit, running parallel with the coach-road for about 4 m. along the side of the river, and after parting company with the road, keeps close to the estuary of the Dovey, which it crosses on a drawbridge at

29¾ m. *Glandyfi or Glandovey Junct.* Here the Rly. from Barmouth to Aberystwyth (Rte. 28) meets that from Machynlleth (4 m. distant, see Rte. 22A), and Oswestry.

The alternations of overhanging rocks and woods, together with the ever-varying reaches of the river, make it a lovely drive the whole way from Aberdovey to

29½ m. *Pennal*, a pretty village a little beyond the junction of the Aberdovey and Towyn roads. There is a tomen or mound in the grounds of Talgarth Hall, the beautiful seat of C. F. Thruston, Esq. *Cefn Caer* farmhouse is built on the site of a Roman Stat. where a hypocaust has been laid bare, and at various times coins of Domitian and Tiberius have been found; there are traces of a

Roman road towards the river. Three Roman roads indeed seem to have led hither, one S.E. from Llanio, in Cardiganshire, one N.E. from Caersws, and another along the Dysyni valley by Tal-y-Llyn. Probably Pennal was the actual site of Maglona, which is generally accredited to Machynlleth.

The road after following the rt. bank of the river, crosses it at Pont-ar-Dyfi, and proceeds to

34 m. *Machynlleth Stat. (Inn : The Lion)*. The town and neighbourhood of Machynlleth are described in Rte. 28. From its central situation the tourist will be enabled to diverge by rail to Aberystwyth, Newtown, Welshpool, Shrewsbury, Aberdovey, Towyn, and Dolgelley. The route by rail from Machynlleth to Llanidloes is given in Rte. 27.

The road to Llanidloes, 19 m., is one of the wildest and most bleak in the whole county, running for miles on the bare summits of the ranges of hills which intervene between Plinlymmon and the Arans. For the first 5 m. the way lies up the picturesque valley of the Diflas, from which it turns off at 37 m. to enter upon a weary, desolate career over the mountains.

41 m. a road on rt. leads into the hills for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to *Glaslyn*—a round pool with a peculiarly bright gravelly bottom. There are no fish in it, owing probably to the existence of a mineral poison. A little farther on is *Llyn Bugeilyn*, “the bottom covered in many parts with weeds, and very shallow; the water of a pitchy blackness, from the peaty bed in which it lies, and islanded here and there by masses of rock.”—*Medwin.*

This lake used to swarm with leeches, which, when it was stocked with trout, disappeared. It is sometimes visited by anglers from Machynlleth, but the distance and

situation preclude it from being much resorted to. The trout are good, cut red, and are of a black, inky colour; but they must be cooked directly, as they will not bear keeping (unless packed in moss). The lake is preserved, but leave of fishing is granted through Mr. Thomas, Chemist, Machynlleth, or Mr. Evans, of the Lion Hotel.

About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Llyn Bugeilyn is the Blaen Hafren, the source of the Severn, which, in the commencement of its career, issues from a small spring on the N.E. side of Plinlymmon. Drayton thus alludes to it:—

“Plinlimmon’s high praise no longer mine defer;
What once the Druids told, how great those floods should be
That here (most mightie hill) derive themselves from thee;
That all the Cambrian hills, which high’st their heads doe beare,
With most obsequious shewes of lowe subjected feare
Should to thy greatness stoupe; and all the brookes that be
Doe homage to those floods that issued out of thee;
To princelie Severne first.”

The large mass of hill to the l. is that of *Tarannon*, the river of the same name, which rises in the mountains between Llanbrynmair and Llanidloes and W. of Newtown, intervening. The rocks of which this district is composed have given the name to the Tarannon shales, which occupy a position between the Llandovery or Pentamerus rocks and the upper Silurian. “The Tarannon shales, occasionally of hard slaty character, and of various colours—in some places so pale a grey as to have been termed pale slates—have been shown by Messrs. Forbes and Aveline to form a geological band of great persistence, which, beginning in small dimensions near Llandovery, expands in its course through Radnor and Montgomery. It is largely and

dearly exhibited about New Bridge and at Tarannon, between Llanbrynnair and Llanidloes. Fossils are rare, and those which occur do not absolutely determine whether the bed should be classed with the upper Llandovery rocks or with the Wenlock formation."—*Siluria*. 42 m., passing a dropping well, the road crosses the bend in the river Twymyn, a little way down which there is a fine waterfall 130 ft. in height. 42½ m. rt. is the square entrenched camp of Pen-y-Grogbren.

45 m. a small roadside Inn, with the insinuating sign of 'Stay a Little.'

48 m. A shorter cut rt. will lead by the *Fan* Lead Mines and the camp of Pen-y-Clyn, both on l., to the point where, crossing the Severn at its junction with the Clywedog, the tourist enters,

53 m., *Llanidloes* (Rte. 27). (*Inn*: *Crewythen Arms*.)

ROUTE 25A.

TOWYN TO TAL-Y-LLYN, CADER IDRIS, AND DOLGELLEY.

A narrow-gauge Rly. runs from Towyn S. of the Dysyni Valley and parallel with it. Its stations are Rhydyronen, Brynglas, Dolgoch, 7 m. *Abergynolwyn Terminus*. The distance from Towyn to Tal-y-Llyn is 10 m.

The road up the vale of the Dysyni may be followed up to its head, which is remarkable for its beauty. The road on the northern side of the stream should be taken as far as Pont-

y-garth opposite *Craig-y-Deryn*; there cross and keep all the way on the l. bank. *Craig-y-Deryn*, "the Rock of Birds," is a very striking feature in the vale, a lofty, somewhat isolated rock, with a precipitous escarpment, the resort in the season of numberless cormorants, hawks, wood-pigeons, &c. The effect is best when viewed from the lower end of the valley. There are traces of a fort on the summit. At Pont Ystumanner, a road turns sharply round to the rt. following the course of a stream (called the *Dysynni* by some) which takes its rise in Tal-y-Llyn. The archæologist should keep up the vale for 1 m. to *Llanvihangel-y-Pennant* (*Inn*: *Peniarth Arms*), a secluded little village nestling in a *cwm*, that rises in the heart of Cader Idris. The ch. contains an interesting Norm. font. *Tyn-y-Bryn*, in this parish, was the birthplace of Dr. Owen Pughe, the Welsh lexicographer. On a small eminence near the road are the scanty remains of *Castell-y-Bere*, a destroyed pre-Edwardian fortress, the buildings of which appear to have covered the whole of the summit of the hill, and to justify the belief that it was the largest castle of its day in N. Wales after *Beaumaris* and *Caernarvon*. Adapted to the outline of its rocky base, it appears to have had its chief apartments at either end, and a round central tower. Little is known of it, save that it was visited by Edward I., since whose time it is believed not to have been occupied, probably because it did not present military advantages.

The road from Pont Ystumanner to

7 m. *Abergynolwyn* Stat. (*Inn*: *Tyn-y-Cornel*) is very pretty, running at the foot of Gamallt, a long peculiarly-shaped mountain that terminates in a narrow point just over the latter place.

The visitor may return at once by rail

to Towyn, but, as *Tal-y-Llyn* is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. distant, it is generally included in the excursion. This is considered by many the most charming lake in Wales, although in point of size it is exceeded by several. It is but $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. long and $\frac{1}{4}$ m. broad, being in fact "an expansion of the narrow vale; the waters from the surrounding mountains being confined and dammed up at the lower extremity, where they run off in a rapid stream at Penybont. The lake was celebrated for the rapid growth and the amazing fecundity of trout, and has been, therefore, flogged from morning to night. Now, piscator may think himself fortunate if he gets a brace of trout in a day. The depth in general is not great, and the bottom is covered with moss and weeds, which is the principal cause of the fish thriving so well. May and June are the best months.

At the W. end of the lake, close to the bridge and Church, are the *Tyn-y-Cornel* Royal Hotel, and *Penybont* Hotel. At the former boats may be hired, charge 2s. 6d. a day, both comfortable and unpretending hostleries in much repute amongst anglers.

A little below Minffordd, near the E. end of *Tal-y-Llyn*, a small stream runs in from *Llyn-y-Cau*. The best way of visiting this glorious tarn is by following the course of the brook about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. The only lake to compare with it in N. Wales is *Llyn Idwal*. It lies in a very deep hollow, surrounded on all sides but the outlet by the intensely rugged and steep precipices of *Cader Idris*—

"On every side now rose
Rocks, which in unimaginable forms
Lifted their black and barren pinnacles
In the light of evening, and its precipice,
Obscuring the ravine, disclosed above
'Mid toppling storms."—*Shelley*.

The lake is of small size, but is all

the more striking on that account: its depth is 360 ft. Trout are abundant, of better quality than those in *Tal-y-Llyn*, but the lake is little fished, on account of the difficult walking to get to it. Like *Llyn-y-Gader*, it is said to nourish the *torgoch*, or Welsh char, in its waters. On the return from *Llyn-y-Cau* the tourist may cross one of the shoulders of *Craig Ammarch* and descend *Cwm Ammarch* back to *Tal-y-Llyn*. From thence he should take the direct road to *Abergynolwyn* Stat. $4\frac{1}{2}$ m., from whence it is a pretty run of 7 m. by rail to Towyn, calling at *Rhyd-yr-Onnen* Stat.

ROUTE 26.

OSWESTRY TO MACHYNLLETH, BY LLANFAIR AND MALLWYD.

There is no public conveyance on this route. The *Cambrian Rly.* runs a little S. of it viâ *Welshpool*, *Montgomery*, and *Newtown* (Rte. 27). The *Great Western* and *Cambrian Rlys.* both have stations at *Oswestry* which closely adjoin one another, the former being the direct route between *Shrewsbury* and *Chester* (Rte. 1).

Oswestry Stat. (*Inns*: **Wynnstay Arms*, very comfortable; the *Queen's Hotel*).

Oswestry is a pleasant, busy *Shropshire* town of some 9000 Inhab., situated amidst prettily-wooded hills in the district lying between *Watt's*

and Offa's Dykes—the former, indeed, passing close to the N.E. outskirts. Though within the Shropshire border, its neighbourhood to Wales gives it much of the character of a Welsh town; and Welsh may be heard spoken here on a market-day. Formerly called Maserfield, it derived its subsequent name of Oswestry from the northern King Oswald and the adjunct 'tre' or town. The like conjunction of a Saxon proper name with the British 'tre,' a township, may be observed in Ingestre, the vill of Inge, a manor near Stafford, now belonging to the Earl of Shrewsbury. Oswald was King of Northumberland, and was slain here in battle in 642, while endeavouring to dispossess Penda, king of Mercia, of his territory. As he had been a benefactor to many monasteries, he was, of course, canonised, and the well erected to the memory of St. Oswald still remains a little distance from the ch., and almost within the precincts of the Grammar School to the W. It was formerly well guarded by a castle which stood on an eminence to the N., and walls, in which were 4 gates, known as Black-gate, New-gate, Willow-gate, and Beatrice-gate.

The *Church* is a venerable-looking building outside, occupying the site of a conventual establishment: "it was much injured during the siege in 1644, when the Royalists demolished the tower, which stood without the town-walls, to avoid the risk of annoyance from its summit," and the Parliamentary force broke into it on the N. side. It would seem, however, that this demolition was but partial, as the "greate tourrid steeple" still forms a picturesque object, and has been respected in the restoration of the *Church* by *Street*, who has retained the original ground-plan and preserved the style and character of the arches and windows, whilst levelling the pews and galleries and lowering

the pavement of the interior. To Dr. Johnson "the Church seemed to be an edifice much too good for the present state of the place."—*Boswell*. There are still some interesting timber houses in the town, which maintains the character given it by Churchyard:—

"This towne doth front on Wales as right as lyne,
So sondrie townes in Shropshire doe for troth,
As Ozestri, a prettie towne full fine,
Which may be lov'd, be likte, and praysed both.
It stands so trim, and is maintayned so cleane,
And peopled is with folke that well doe meane,
That it deserves to be enrouled and shryned
In each good heart and every manly mynd."

About 1 m. to the N., a little on the rt. by the Railway to Gobowen, stands *Old Oswestry*, otherwise called *Caer Ogyrfan*, a fine British post, defended by a triple rampart of unusual height and distinctness. The entrances to N. and S. are extremely well defined. The total fortifications covered a space of between 40 and 50 acres, exclusive of the area, which is about 16. A local tradition inclines to the belief that the ancient town stood here, and has gradually travelled away to its present position. There is another less well-defined entrenchment, called *Castell Brogyntyn*, of a circular form and surrounded by a dyke, supposed to have been erected by one Brogyntyn, a natural son of Owen Madoc, Prince of Powys. It is situated on the W. border of the park of *Brogyntyn*, the beautiful seat of Lord Harlech.

Oswestry is a corporate town, and holds sessions for its own borough, at which a Recorder presides. It possesses a handsome town-hall, good markets, a literary institute, a House of Industry outside the town, and a grammar-school, founded in Henry IV.'s time by one David Holbach.

Offa's Dyke and *Watt's Dyke* both run near Oswestry.

The ruins of *Whittington Castle* (Rte. 1) are 2 m. N.E.

Distances. — Llanrhaiadr - yn - Mochnant, 14 m.; Pistyll Rhaiadr, 18 m., best reached from Llanfyllin Rly. Stat., 14; Chester, 21; Ellesmere, 11 m.

Railway. — To Chester, Whitchurch, and Shrewsbury. To Welshpool, 16 m.; Machynlleth and Aberystwyth. (Rte. 27).

2 m. rt. a road which very soon crosses Offa's Dyke runs to Llanrhaiadr - yn - Mochnant, 14 m. (Rte. 26A).

At Trefonen, 2½ m., Offa's dyke falls into the road for a short distance. 5 m. the Shrewsbury, Llanrhaiadr, and Bala road here crosses at right angles. On l. is the picturesque escarpment of *Llanymynech Hill*, whence (and from the quarries of Porthywaun) enormous quantities of mountain-limestone are extracted. Copper seems also to have been worked here by the Romans, who have left traces of their excavations in a large cave or Ogo, at the end of which, in 1761, were found several skeletons, together with some tools and coins of the reign of Antoninus. The Dyke is carried along the W. brow of the hill, which is worth ascending for the sake of the beautiful view, particularly towards the Berwyns.

[From this a road of 9 m. runs along the N. bank of the Tannat to Llanrhaiadr, passing 1¼ m. *Llan-y-blodwel*, the ch. of which was restored and an octagonal tower erected by the late Rev. John Parker, one of the first of Welsh archaeologists, who possessed an unique collection of drawings relative to the architecture and ecclesiology of the country.

5 m. *Llangedwyn Hall*, a seat of Sir H. W. Wynn, Bart. Some of the family are buried in the ch.-yard.

From hence a road crosses the Tannat to Llanfyllin, 4½ m.

6 m. rt. is a large camp known as *Llwyn Bryn Dinas*. 8 m. l. is an erect stone on rising ground above the road.

At *Llansantffraid*, 8½ m., where there is a stat., the Llanfyllin branch of the Oswestry and Welshpool Rly. (Rte. 27) is crossed, and the road is carried S.W. up the vale of the Vyrnwy to

14 m. *Meifod* (Lion and King's Head Hotels), an angler's resort, and a place of considerable importance in the ecclesiastical polity of Powisland, taking its name, 'maifod,' or 'summer residence,' from the residence there, after the destruction of Pengwern, of the Princes of Powys, whose castle was at Mathraval, and their burial-place the Ch. of St. Tysilio. The *Church* is large and interesting, having 2 aisles, with a battlemented tower at the W. end of the nave, of the date of the 13th cent. A Norm. arcade was brought to light during its restoration 1871, supposed to have belonged to the *Church* of St. Tysilio, and to a date anterior to 1154; the second of three churches, it is said, within the same enclosure. A coffin-lid of the 10th or 11th cent. is built into the W. of the wall near the S. aisle. The ch.-yd. is remarkable for its size, enclosing an area of five acres.

Meifod is thought by some antiquaries to have been the site of the Roman station *Mediolanum*, others consider it more probable that the locality was at *Mathrafal*, 2 m. from the village, where once a castle existed belonging to the Princes of Powys. On the wooded eminence on rt. of the road is an oval entrenchment known as *Bryn Saethau*. A little before arriving at Mathrafal the road crosses the river *Beechan*. It is, in fact, the Vyrnwy, which at this point takes that name, the 2

streams which here unite to form that river being called respectively the Bechan and the Einion. The former again bears the name of Vyrnwy some miles higher up, and takes its rise on the southern slopes of the Berwyn mountains, flowing S.E. through a romantic but rather desolate country. The Einion, with its affluents Twrch, Banw and Nant-yr-Eira, rises in the high grounds to the E. of Mallwyd and Dinas Mawddwy. As a fishing river the Vyrnwy was formerly so celebrated, that it was called the ‘*amnis piscosus*.’ “It is an early trout-stream, and in highest order from the 3rd or 4th week in March to the end of April. Salmon come up in large numbers, and grayling and other fish abound.”—*Cliffe*.

The conversion of the Vyrnwy waters into a Liverpool reservoir (see Rte. 27A) will probably deprive it of its attraction to anglers.

17½ m. *Llangynyw*, above which is the circular camp of Pen-y-Castell. [18 m. l. a road runs to Welshpool, 3½ m., crossing the Einion, and passing l. Cyfronydd, the seat of Captain Pryce.]

20 m. *Llanfair Caer Einion* (*Inns*: Goat; Eagle), a neat little town, suitable to the requirements of the angler in the Vyrnwy and neighbouring streams. It obtains its specific name from the Castell Caer Einion, about 5 m. to the E. The ch., 1868, which retains the south door and open oak roof in chancel and nave of the original edifice, appears to have been a daughter ch. of Meifod, and contains the tomb of a knight recumbent in chain armour with his tilting helmet, and an inscription on his belt.

Distances.—Welshpool, 7 m.; Oswestry, 20; Newtown, 11.

[4½ m. to the S.W., on the banks of the Rhiw, is *Llanllugan*, where once

stood a nunnery of some importance. Few traces of it remain.]

Now commences a long ascent up the valley of the Banw, previous to arriving at the watershed which separates the rivers of Montgomeryshire from the Dyfi and Merionethshire. 25 m. *Llanerfyl*, a parish whose *Church* takes its name from St. Erfyl, cousin to St. Cadvan. In the ch.-yd. under a grand old yew-tree, stands the only Romano-British inscribed stone in the county. A carved shrine, a handsome Tudor altar-table, and some painted panels remain from the old Ch. Overlooking it on l. *Gardden*, a circular rampart, encloses an area of about 70 yds.

[A long line of hill extends to the S., called Mynydd Drum, on the summit of which are 3 small lakes.] Here the road crosses the Banw, and runs along its N. bank to

26½ m. **Cann Office*, a good comfortable Inn and posting-house, with garden attached, and patronised by anglers. On the opposite side of the river is *Llangadfan*. The ch. is dedicated to St. Cadfan, the patron saint of Towyn, whose well has been partially filled up by the new road from Cann Office to the ch., which is modern, except its old Perp. window in the E. end. A great riot took place here in 1645, when Vavasour Powell came to sequester the benefices of the clergy in Montgomeryshire, on which occasion the rectory was burnt down. *Nant-yr-Eira*, a considerable stream, here flows from the hills on the S. About 3 m. up the valley is *Moel-y-Ddolwen*, an oblong camp of 100 yds. in length.

It is evident from the number of early fortified posts that great store was set upon this district by the inhabitants; and the frequent carneddau, many of which have been opened and found to contain ‘cist-vaens,’ bear token of burials, most

probably of those who had fallen in fight. [From Cann Office a road on rt. runs to Llanfyllin, 11 m., crossing the Vyrnwy at Pontllogel. Near it is *Llwydiarth Hall*, a mansion formerly belonging to the Vaughan family, now to Sir H. W. Wynn.] At 28 m. near *Garthbeibio*, 'the Headland of Peibiaw, a mythic personage,' the road crosses the *Twrch*, a stream descending from the outlying ranges between the Arans and the Berwyns. From hence begins a weary, desolate ascent of bleak mountain road, enjoyable only in fine, clear weather, when the distant ranges of Plinlymmon are conspicuous objects in the S. The watershed and head of the pass is reached at *Bwlch-y-fedwen*, 31½ m., when the traveller, impatient to reach scenes of cultivation, commences his descent, and enters Merionethshire. Between this point and Mallwyd, near the woods of *Dugoed Mawr*, is a spot on the road called '*Llidiart-y-Baron*,' or the Baron's Gate, from the murder there of Lewis Owen, Vice-Chamberlain of N. Wales, by the survivors of the Redheaded Banditti of Dinas Mawddwy, who had been dispersed or hanged by his instrumentality. The mother of some of these robbers had imprecated vengeance on the judge, and as he went along this desolate track to Montgomery assizes, he was waylaid, and pierced through and through with some thirty arrows.

At 34½ m. the *Tafolog* river flows in from the S., and adds its waters to the stream which has accompanied the road from the head of the pass, both together entering the pastoral vale of Dyfi.

36½ m. *Mallwyd*, the paradise of artists, who, tempted by the variety of lovely scenery around, and by the very comfortable accommodations of the *Peniarth Arms Inn*, are frequent visitors. The situation is as charming as can well be imagined. "Placed

between the salient angles of 3 abrupt mountains, which form a grand natural amphitheatre, Camlin rising with rude majesty immediately opposite, and the conical Aran lifting up its head, with its different *cwm*s, are reflected with varying tint and shade in the waters of the Dyfi."—*Evans*.

The ch.-yard is celebrated for its yews, one of which has a girth of 23 ft. Suspended over the ch. porch are two gigantic bones, locally attributed to a whale. There is a very picturesque waterfall at *Pont-Fallwyd*, a little distance from the village, on the road to Dinas Mawddwy (Rte. 23).

From Mallwyd the road pursues a lovely course along the eastern bank of the Dyfi, although the scenery is not to be compared with that of the mountains higher up. As a fishing river the Dyfi has fallen off; and, indeed, in the summer is frequently so dry that there is scarce water enough for the purpose. For this defect it makes up with such startling rapidity after rainy weather that its bounds are overflowed, and great damage done to the lands on either side.

41 m. *Cemmaes Road Junct.*, where a Rly. branches to Dinas Mawddwy (Rte. 23), before arriving at which on rt. is *Aberhiriarth Hall*.

At 42 m. l. the waters of the Dyfi are increased by those of the *Twymyn*, and the road is joined by the mail-road from Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth.

48 m. *Machynlleth Stat.* (Rte. 22A)

ROUTE 26A.

BALA TO OSWESTRY, BY LLANDRILLO, LLANRHAIDR, AND THE FALLS OF PISTYLL RHAIDR.—THE BERWYNS.

About 35 m.

Bala Stat. in Rte. 3. The Falls of the Rhaiadr lie on the S. side of the Berwyn chain, which must be crossed to reach them.

The quickest way is to take the train from Bala to

4½ m. *Llandrillo Stat.* (Rte. 23) (*Inn: Dudley Arms*). From this point the pleasant valley and river Dee are left behind. A road turning S. from them must be followed up a narrow glen. It climbs the steep and wild ranges of the *Berwyns*. These mountains, which, for more than 30 miles, constitute the division between the counties of Merioneth and Montgomery, the boundary-lines being carried along the summits, form part of the great backbone of N. Wales. The general group commences between Machynlleth and Dinas Mawddwy, to the N. of which it has a tendency to divide, the range to the W. culminating in the Arans, and on the E. in the Berwyns. The whole of these mountains, with the Arennigs on the W., form an enormous basin, of which Bala Lake is the centre. Notwithstanding their immense extent, but few rivers of any importance take their rise in the Berwyns, although there are a multitude of small streams dividing the secondary ranges into little valleys. The 2 principal rivers are the Tannat and Vyrnwy, both flowing E.

or S.E. towards the Severn. The highest points of the mountains are Cader Berwyn, or Ferwyn, 2716 ft., and Cader Fronwen to the N., overlooking Llandrillo and the vale of Edeyrnion. The road is carried up the side of the valley of the little river Calettwr, meeting a road to Llandrillo, 3½ m.

The highest pass of the Berwyns, Miltir Gerig, is now crossed, and the road enters the head of a narrow vale that joins that of the Tannat, this portion of it being a Roman road is called Milltirgerig, "the stony mile."

The formation, of which the great mass of the Berwyns is composed, is of the age of the Llandeilo rocks. On the eastern flank, black slates, identical with Llandeilo formation elsewhere, may be seen to be overlaid by calcareous flagstones, well exposed at Llanrhaiadr. "The masses, more or less calcareous, have a thickness of 400 or 500 ft., and are laden in their lower part with *Asaphus tyrannus*, encrinites, and corals."—*Siluria*. All these strata pass at an angle of about 25° underneath the Bala or Caradoc sandstones.

The descent down the pretty dingle of the Rhiwfath opens out a pleasing change of scenery.

38½ m. *Llangynog* (New Inn, good), a small Montgomeryshire village which has obtained some importance from the lead-mines in the parish. A very large one, Craig-y-mwyn, was opened in 1692 and worked for many years, yielding an annual revenue of 20,000*l.* a year it, is said, to the Powys family. The concern was stopped by an irruption of water, but was again commenced by a company who have worked it with varying success. The mine is about 2 m. from the village, in the range of hills which intervene between the valleys of the Tannat and Rhaiadr. There are some other mines nearer Llangynog, as also some slate-quarries. The situation of this village is

picturesque in the extreme—at the confluence of the Tannat and the Rhiwarth, above which on the N. the enormous hill of Craig Rhiwarth towers precipitously, an equally lofty though less abrupt range sheltering it on the S.

Llangynog obtains its name from the British saint and martyr Cynog, put to death in the 5th century.

Llanrhaiadr Waterfall may be reached from this by a rough mountain path in 4 m.

Distances.—To Llanfyllin Stat. (Cambrian Rly.) 8 m. To Bala, 12½; Oswestry, 19½.

[*Pennant Melangell*, 2½ m. which place the tourist should visit, on account of its singular *Church*. It is a long building, divided into a nave and chancel by a wooden screen, and has at the western end a tower, restd. 1879. A more ancient edifice probably stood here, as in the S. Wall are the capitals of 4 Norm. shafts built into the wall, but turned upside down. The most interesting feature, however, is the *carved Woodwork*, representing the legend of St. Monacella, the figures ingeniously grouped in compartments, supposed to be formed by recesses in the foliage of the forest. The tale runs that St. Monacella, or Melangell, who was the daughter of an Irish monarch, had vowed celibacy, and, in consequence of her father wishing her to marry one of his noblemen, fled hither, and dwelt in strict retirement, not even seeing the face of man for 15 years. One day Brochwel Yscythrog, Prince of Powys, being out hunting, was surprised to find in the depths of the forest a virgin of great beauty engaged in devotion, whilst the hare which he had been pursuing fled to her for refuge, and boldly faced the dogs. They did not dare to pursue her, neither could the huntsman with-

draw his horn from his lips. Brochwel heard her story, and gave to God, and to her, land to be a sanctuary for all that fled there. St. Monacella forthwith became the patron saint of hares, “and till the last cent. so strong a superstition prevailed, that no person would kill a hare in the parish; and even later, when a hare was pursued by dogs, it was firmly believed that if any one cried, ‘God and St. Monacella be with thee!’ it was sure to escape.”—*Pennant*. The whole of this pretty legend is told on the carving, which was formerly painted over with bright colours, now faded. The figures occur in the following order. On the l. is Brochwel on horseback, the huntsman with the horn stuck to his lips, St. Monacella, the hare running for protection, the hounds pursuing. In the ch.-yd. are 2 mutilated recumbent figures of a chieftain and lady of the family of Rhired Flaidd, lord of Pemmllyn and Pennant.]

From Llangynog the road follows the rt. bank of the Tannat, which speedily increases in volume as the vale becomes more open. Soon after passing a very picturesque defile the river is crossed at Penybont, the road on rt. keeping straight on through the villages of Llangedwyn and Llanyblodwell, while ours, inclining N.E., leads to

40 m. *Llanrhaiadr ym Mochnant* (h.e., “the ch. of the rushing stream”) (*Inn*: Wynnstay Arms), a small though prettily situated village on the Rhaiadr, an affluent of the Tannat, which flows down from the Cataract. Except for the scenery in the neighbourhood there is nothing to detain the tourist. It has an old Church, restd., and a Market House on pillars. Llanrhaiadr is celebrated for two of its incumbents; Dr. Morgan, Bishop of Llandaff, and subsequently of St. Asaph, in 1601, was the first

translator of the Bible into Welsh. Mr. Robert South was also sometime near of Llanrhaiadr.

[4 m. above Llanrhaiadr is **Pistyll Rhaiadr**, the most lofty and picturesque cataract in North Wales. The road leads up the l. bank of the Rhaiadr, the stream which forms the Falls, through a wild and savage glen, in the Llanderb slaty strata, rising from the E. flank of the Berwyns. The waterfall occurs about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the head of the glen, and upwards of 240 ft. in height. For about 2-3rds of this space the water slides down the flat face of a naked rock; it rages then through a natural arch, and, passing between prominent sides, falls into a basin." The Rhaiadr flows down a line of fault, the beds on the E. side being raised higher than those on W.

"After walking about a mile with the cataract always in sight, I emerged from the glen into an oblong valley extending from south to north, having lofty hills on all sides, especially to the west, from which direction the cataract comes. I advanced across the vale till within a furlong of this object when I was stopped by a deep hollow or nether vale into which the waters of the cataract tumble. The water comes spouting over a crag of perhaps 200 ft. in altitude between two hills, one S.E. and the other nearly N. The northern hill is wooded from the top, nearly down to where the cataract burst forth; and so, but not so thickly, is the northern hill, which bears a singular resemblance to a hog's back. Groves of pine are on the lower parts of both; in front of the grove low down on the northern hill, is a small white house of a picturesque appearance.

"I directed my course towards the house in front of the grove. I turned down the path which brought [N. Wales.]

me to the brook which runs from the northern glen into the waters discharged by the Rhyadr, and crossing it by stepping-stones found myself on the lowest spur of the hog-backed hill. A steep path led towards the house. I followed the path which led round the house downward to a tiny bridge of planks, a little way below the fall. I advanced to the middle of the bridge, then turning to the west looked at the wonderful object before me.

"There are many remarkable cataracts in Britain and the neighbouring isles, even the little Celtic Isle of Man has its remarkable waterfall; but this Rhyadr, the grand cataract of North Wales, far exceeds them all in altitude and beauty, though it is inferior to several of them in the volume of its flood. I never saw water falling so gracefully, so much like thin beautiful threads, as here. Yet even this cataract has its blemish."—*G. Borrow*.

In former days, and down to the time of Borrow's visit, the fall was crossed by an ugly black bridge or semicircle of rock, under which the water, after reaching the bottom, passed. He adds: "This unsightly object has stood where it now stands since the day of creation, and will probably remain there to the Day of Judgment. It would be a desecration of nature to remove it by art, but no one could regret if nature in one of her floods were to sweep it away." — *Borrow's 'Wild Wales.'* This unsightly object has been swept away by a flood, and Borrow's wish is accomplished.

The river takes its rise in a small tarn, *Llyn Caws*, which lies in a deep *cwm* at the foot of Cader Berwyn. The cliffs can be scaled with some little difficulty, and the Cader ascended. It is 2715 ft. in height.] An easy descent may be made on the N. side to Llandrillo Stat. (Rte. 3).

From Llanrhaiadr there is a choice of roads to Oswestry: a hilly road to the N., about 12 m.; or, following the Tannat nearly as far as Llanyblodwell, 14 m. Llanfyllin Stat. of the Cambrian Rly. (Rte. 27A) is about 10 m. from the waterfall.

52 m. *Oswestry Stat.* (*Hotel: Wynnstay Arms, excellent.*) (Rte. 26.) See *Handbook to Shropshire.*

ROUTE 27.

OSWESTRY TO ABERYSTWYTH, BY LLANIDLOES, WELSHPOOL, MONTGOMERY, (LLANFYLLIN) AND NEWTOWN (PLINLYMMON)—RAIL.

Oswestry (Rte. 26) is connected with Llanidloes and South Wales by a rly., viâ Montgomery, Newtown, and Moat Lane Junct., which runs due S. nearly parallel with Offa's Dyke, on the l., and having on the rt. the coach-road to Llanymynech.

3 m. *Llyncllys Stat.*, near which is a small lake. (6 m. from this is Llangedwyn Hall, Rte. 26.) On l. is the village of Morton. The rly. is here crossed by a tramroad which conveys a large quantity of lime from the mountain-limestone quarries of Porthywaun to a wharf on the Ellesmere Canal. The abrupt hill of Llanymynech rises with precipitous escarpment on rt., and forms a striking feature in the landscape. It possesses valuable limestone quarries.

There are caves in this mountain which are of considerable extent (p. 156). They were worked by the Romans.

5½ m. *Llanymynech Junct. Stat.* [from whence a branch Rly. is given off to Llanfyllin and the Lake Virnwy (Rte. 27A)].

[From Llanymynech a direct line to Shrewsbury, 18 m., existed down to 1879, called the *Potteries, Shrewsbury, and North Wales Rly.* The stats. were Maesbrook, Kinnerley, Nesscliff, Shrawardine, Cross Gate, or Ford, Hanwood Road, and Re Hill. This line is now disused and closed.]

Llanymynech is a pretty village situated on an eminence on the Vyrnwy, which is here crossed by a handsome stone bridge.

After passing this station, and running a little way parallel with Offa's Dyke, we leave to the rt. the pretty modern *Church* of Llandysilio which replaces a 7th cent. structure by an edifice of decorated character from the designs of Mr. G. E. Street.

7 m. *Four Crosses, Stat.* for Llandysilio; a road on rt. leads to Llandysilio, 3 m., underneath the eminence occupied by the camp Brynmawr. [A road on l. joins the Welshpool and Shrewsbury road passing *Llandrinio*, 2 m., the church which has a Norm. font and arch and a carved pulpit of Elizabethan date; Alberbury, 7 m.]

Our line now enters the broad alluvial valley of the *Severn*, which runs from Welshpool in a very steep pentine, and it must be confessed a very sluggish stream. Conspicuous far and wide on the l. rise up the isolated *Breiddin Hills*, the most northerly of which is crowned by a pillar in honour of Lord Rodney. This district is also traversed by

Montgomeryshire Canal, which prior to the days of railways was an important communication between the Dee, the Mersey, and the Severn. Much of the land lying alongside of the banks of the river is continually subject to inundations, which in the last cent. created terrible havoc. They have, however, been to a considerable extent obviated by embankments and sluices, made at the cost of 26,000*l*.

12 m. *Pool Quay Stat.* From this there is a ferry across the Severn to Trewern at the foot of Moel-y-golfa. Up to this point the Severn is navigable for barges. A considerable trade is carried on here in the exportation of barytes. An abbey known as Strata Marcella, or Ystrad Marchell, formerly existed about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. further on. Some of the carved stones of it have been built up in the porch of the ch. at Pool Quay. It was founded by Owain Cyfeiliog in 1170, for monks of the Cistercian order, but all traces have disappeared, save in the nomenclature of the localities around. An embankment, which runs northwards, is still known as Tir-y-Mynach, or 'the monks' bank.' A very pretty Ear. Eng. ch. has been erected at Pool Quay by the Earl of Powys. Between Pool Quay and Welshpool there is a junct. (Buttington) for Shrewsbury. The country on rt. becomes prettily broken and varied as the tourist approaches

16 m. *Welshpool Stat. Junct.*, with Shrewsbury line (Rte. 28) (*Inns*: Royal Oak, very comfortable, and a good posting-house; The Bull, good), a thriving, well-built town of 5211 Inhab., in reality, though not in name, the capital of Montgomeryshire, containing the Assize courts for the county, also being the depôt for the militia. James II. granted it a charter, the jurisdiction of the corporation extending from 4 to 6 m.

all round the town. Both the general tourist and the archæologist may spend a day or two in Welshpool very profitably in exploring the district around.

The old *Church* is situated on high ground a little N. of the Hotel. It has a massive tower, and large nave, formed by including the S. aisle. The chancel, part of the original ch., contains a good Dec. E. window. The roof is panelled and of Early Perp. style. A curious effect is produced by the chancel arch not being in the centre of the ch., owing to the extreme breadth of the nave. In 1871 this ch. was restored under the direction of Mr. G. E. Street, R.A., the chancel being remodelled, the floor of the nave lowered, the porch thrown into the ch., an open roof of pitch pine substituted for the flat ceiling, and new Decorated windows introduced on the S. side. There is a handsome alabaster tomb with recumbent effigy in chancel, by Richardson, to the memory of the late Earl Powys, "Conservator Episcopatus Asaphensis," and also a golden chalice given in 1662 by Thomas Davies, a former governor of the English colonies on the African coast, as a thank-offering for preservation of health. The inscription winds up with the following hearty denunciation on any sacrilegious person who should attempt to steal it:—

"A quo usu, si quis facinorosus eundem calicem in posterum alienaret (quod avertat Deus) Dei vindicis supremo tribunali pœnas luat."

Close to the town (on the other side of the canal) is a small *Tomen* or mount, which probably guarded the passage of the Severn. It now forms part of the bowling-green.

The great attraction, however, of Welshpool is the magnificent park and building of *Castell Coch* or *Powys Castle*, 1 m. S.W., the seat of the noble family of Powys. The

Church at the top of the main street, a little above the entrance gateway of the park, was built on coming of age of the present Earl. As the centre of the old district of Powysland, a fortress has existed here from a date as early as the beginning of the 12th cent., when Cadwgan first began to erect a castle, which was completed by subsequent princes of Powys. Owain ap Gruffydd, holding it under protection of King John, incurred thereby the displeasure of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, who dismantled it. It, however, came again into the possession of Hawys, daughter of Owain Gwenwynwyn, who married Sir John Charlton, afterwards summoned to Parliament as Baron of Powys, from whose family it afterwards passed into that of the Greys, by marriage with the heiress of Edward, Lord Powys. By purchase, in the reign of Elizabeth, it next belonged to the Herberts.

The castle, as it at present stands, was much altered and modernised, under Sir Robert Smirke's direction. Externally it is of red sandstone, and occupies a commanding situation on the summit of a natural platform made by the edges of strata of the Caradoc sandstone, upturned into a nearly vertical position, and descending in steps so as to form natural terraces. Alterations in the interior were probably made about the time of James I. and Elizabeth, though the walls, according to Mr. Parker, may be of the 13th cent. There is a gallery of the latter part of the 16th cent., into which open several state bedrooms, one with a very fine bedstead of carved oak, and another still retaining the character of its fitting up for Charles II., who occupied it. In the drawing-room and library are portraits by Cornelius Janssens and other masters. The tapestry in the dining-room represents Antony's taking leave of Cleopatra. Many other objects of

great interest are shown—a Byzantine cup belonging to Mary of Modena, ancient weapons, sculptural relics from Herculaneum, curiosities from India, and a rare library.

The *Park*, which is reached by gate out of the main street of the town, is free to everybody to enter and lounge about at his own will—in fact, a free park for which the townspeople of Welshpool cannot but be thankful to the noble owner. Several of the old oaks in it are of gigantic proportions, especially one on the right, at which the tourist draws near the castle. The castle is approached through the outer offices. The grounds were laid out by the landscape-gardener Capability Brown, who, in his anxiety to obtain an uniform level, actually proposed blowing up the picturesque rock on which the castle stands. The views from the terraces, five in number, and based on the solid rock, are exquisitely beautiful, especially that looking through a long vista of trees on to the distant peaks of Moel-y-goff and the Breiddin Hills.

An excellent mode of visiting Powys Castle for non-pedestrians is to charter a fly or car to take them through the park to the castle, and then round through the modern domain of Mr. Naylor, of Leighton, rich in modern improvements—farms, mills, inclines, sawing-establishments, and so under the Church at Leighton back to Welshpool. The bridge across the Severn is crossed in this route.

Rail to Shrewsbury, 18 m.; Oswestry, 16; and Aberystwyth, 14.

Distances.—Montgomery, 8 m. Guilsfield, 3; Llanfair Caer Einion, 7; Breiddin Hills, 6; Berriew, 4½; Meifod, 7.

[An excursion may be made to *Guilsfield*, an extremely pretty village lying amongst wooded hills nearly 3 m. distant, and 4 m. from Meifod (Rte. 26). It has a fine old Church

restored (1879) by *Street*, and is one of the finest fabrics in the county. The whole district between this and Meifod (Rte. 26) is remarkable for the number of camps and intrenchments which appear to crown almost every summit. The most important of these is *Gaer Fawr*, in very good preservation, overlooking the road N. to Oswestry. Between the vicarage and the stream are vestiges of an ancient moat. The pedestrian may extend his wanderings over hill and dale through a very lovely country to Meifod, between 4 and 5 m. farther, or take a very beautiful walk past the fine old timbered mansion of Trelydan Hall up to the Rhall and the heights once occupied by the remains of the Abbey of Ystrad Marchell, overlooking the Severn.]

[The road to *Llanfair Caer Einion* leaves Welshpool at the western extremity, passing immediately outside the town *Llannerchadol*. On l. are the woods and swelling hills of Powys Mark. 4 m. a road rt. runs up to Meifod. A road on l. leads to Merriew, there to join the road to Newtown, passing $\frac{3}{4}$ m. the village of *Castell Caer Einion*. On Pen-y-foel stood a fortress erected in 1155 by Einion, one of the sons of Cunedda Vledig, King of Wales. It was in 165 taken and destroyed by Owain Iyfeiliog, and no traces now remain. The ch. was rebuilt in 1866, except the spire. 7 m. *Llanfair* (Rte. 26).]

From Welshpool the rly. runs to Newtown through Montgomery, to which town it is a pleasant excursion of 8 m., following the Newtown road for $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. The traveller then branches off to the l., crossing the Severn at Kilkewydd bridge, or he may leave the town and cross the river at Leighton Ford. By this latter route he may visit the gardens and grounds of *Leighton Hall*, the seat of John Naylor, Esq. Amongst

the pictures in the house is the original of Martin's 'Joshua commanding the sun to stand still.' The tall spire of the modern E. E. Church built by Mr. Naylor is a conspicuous feature in the landscape.

These 2 roads join at 4 m. at the Heath Inn, close to *Offa's Dyke*, which is distinctly to be traced running parallel with the road as it descends from the *Long Mountain*, a range of hills which have a course N.E. between this point and the Breiddin Hills. In appearance they are rather monotonous and formal, being composed geologically of the lower Ludlow shales, which generally show the effects of denudation in their rounded outlines. Several ancient roads and tumuli will reward the search of the antiquarian, who will find on the summit the fine earthwork of *Caer Digoll* (the Beacon Ring), 1330 ft., consisting of a lofty bank surrounded by a broad ditch. It is circular, and had one principal opening towards the S. Here was fought the last contested battle for Welsh independence in 1294, on which occasion the Welsh were commanded by Madoc, cousin of Llewelyn. If the day is fine a visit to this height will well repay the tourist by the extensive views that it affords.

Perched high up on the S.W. slope is the little mountain ch. of Wolston Mynd or Trelystan, which is an old timber-framed edifice with wattled work to fill up the interstices; restored.

4 m. a road on l. branches off to Chirbury, 3 m. Remains of a Priory and Conventual Church here.

$4\frac{1}{2}$ m. *Nanteribba Hall*, formerly a seat of Viscount Hereford, but now the property of Mr. Naylor of Leighton. The antiquary should visit the *Moat*, a projecting mass of trap, about 40 ft. high, sur-

rounded by a deep trench, and only accessible by one narrow path. In the last cent. a square building, with circular bastions, existed on the summit.

On rt. a road branches to Newtown, joining the Welshpool road and passing Forden church. 2 m. in the flat between the road and the Severn is *Caer*, erroneously called *Caerflôs*, which is believed to have been a Roman stat.

8 m. *Montgomery Stat.* 1 m. from the town and Severn (*Inns*: Green Dragon; Wynnstay Arms; Chickens), a pleasant sleepy town of 2695 Inhab., many of them persons of moderate means, who prefer the comforts of life without the bustle of large cities. It has not always been a sleepy place, however, for few posts have been so stoutly battled for in all the turbulent history of the Marches. It was originally called *Tref Faldwyn*, or the town of *Baldwyn*, a lieutenant of the Marches in the time of the Conqueror.

The *Castle* is registered in Domesday by the name *Montgomeri*, under the Lordship of Earl Roger. It was garrisoned by William Rufus, and, after having been taken and destroyed by the Welsh, was granted by the Crown to Baldwin de Bollers, 1121, and was rebuilt by the Earl of Shrewsbury. Twice again was it demolished by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, and twice restored by Henry III. It was at one time held by the ancestors of Lord Herbert of Chirbury, who made it their principal residence. During the Civil War it was garrisoned for the king by Lord Herbert, but yielded, 1644, to Sir Thomas Myddelton, who, having been compelled to beat a retreat towards Oswestry, was obliged to leave the castle. Lord Byron then attacked it, and Sir Thomas, having returned with reinforcements, was killed in which the

Royalists were signally defeated. The fortress was then dismantled.

The scanty ruins, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the Rly. Stat., are magnificently situated on a projecting tongue or ridge of rock, with deeply-scarped sides and command a noble view. The masonry probably dates from the reign of Henry III., 1224. What remains are fragments of coarse ashlar. It was composed of 3 distinct platforms or courts, separated by 4 deep fosses cut in the rock. What little is now left is fast going to decay.

On an eminence, separated by deep hollow on the western side, is the fine British camp of *Ffrid Faldwyn*, of an oval form and protected by two ditches. Probably this was the site of *Baldwyn's Castle*. At any rate the visitor should not fail to ascend it for the sake of the very lovely view.

The *Church* contains some good lancet-windows and E. E. piers, and a fine timbered roof. It is of cruciform plan, the N. transept, surmounted by a modern tower, and known as the *Brockton transept*, was built by the Prior of Chirbury. The S. transept, known as the *Lymore chanse*, contains a monument to Richard, father of Lord Herbert of Chirbury, with his effigy in armour, coloured, and a skeleton below; also effigy of the Mortimer family, about the time of Richard II. The ch. has a good carved screen. The ch.-y is locally famous for the so-called 'Robbers' Grave,' indicated by a bare cross visible amidst the surrounding verdure. One *Newt* is said to have been buried there after being hanged for highway robbery and murder. At his conviction he prayed Heaven to afflict the injustice of his sentence by not suffering the grass to grow on his grave. The story has been told by Mr. Mostyn Price, of Gunley, and Judge Halburton.

and, according to Leland, "Great ruins of the waulle yet appeare, and the remains of 4 gates, thus called: Kedewen Gate, Chirbury Gate, Arthur's Gate, and Kerry Gate."

In the N.E. part of the town is the site of Black Hall, the birthplace of the pious and learned George Herbert.

1 m. on the road to Churchstoke is *Lymore Park*. The house is a good specimen of the domestic architecture of the 16th cent., and contains all the original panellings and wainscots. It is at present unoccupied, but the old-fashioned walled gardens, with their remains of the old-fashioned topiary art, and with their quarterings well defined by espalier apples, are a satisfaction to the eye. The whole of the E. side of the park is bounded by Offa's Dyke, which here divides Montgomeryshire from Salop, England from Wales.

Distances. — Welshpool, 8 m.; Newtown, 9; Chirbury, $2\frac{1}{2}$; Abermule, 4; Corndon Hill, $5\frac{1}{2}$. Excursions may be made from Montgomery to Chirbury, with its interesting ch.; to Marrington Hall (a fine timbered house) and Dingle, to *Corndon Hill*, with its famous bed of Trilobites, near Middleton, and to Churchstoke.

An extension Rly. line is proposed from Montgomery to Bishop's Castle, 12 m. S.

From Welshpool the rly. runs S., passing

$20\frac{1}{4}$ m. *Forden* Stat. [Rt. is the picturesque village of *Berriew*, a little above which there is a pretty waterfall on the river Rhiw, which here joins the Severn. 2 roads branch off from hence, one to Castell Caer Einion, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m., and the other along the l. bank of the Rhiw to Manafon. Between the turnpike-road and river is an erect stone, known as Maen Beuno. Close to Berriew is *Vaynor*, a beautiful residence

which once belonged to the family of Devereux (Viscount Hereford), from whom it was alienated. Major Corbett-Winder now owns it.]

$25\frac{3}{4}$ m. rt. Above the Severn, surrounded by trees, stands *Pennant*, a seat of the Buckley Williams family. On the wooded eminence above Dolforwyn Hall are the slight remains of Dolforwyn Castle, occupying the site of a British camp. It was a quadrangular building, of no great strength, erected about 1420.

This is said to be the scene of the legend of the death of "Sabrina fair," whom

"Her stepdame Gwendolën
Committed her fair innocence to the flood"

on "the Virgin's Meadow" (Dol Forwyn). Her fate has been the theme of many poets — Milton, Drayton, and Dyer among them.

Rocky Dolforyn,
Sabrina's early haunt, ere yet she fled
The search of Gwendolen, her stepdame
proud,
With envious hate enraged.

About 2 m. further W. is the pretty village of Bettws Cedewen, the ch. of which has a steeple built in 1531, by the vicar, John Meredyth. The ch. was attached to the monastery of Strata Marcella.

$25\frac{3}{4}$ m. *Abermule* *Junct.* *Stat.*

[A short branch Rly. runs from Abermule *Junct.* up the valley of the Mule to *Kerry*, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m., a pretty village, presumably so called from the 'ceri,' or mountain ash, which are said to have abounded in those parts, and situated at the foot of the Kerry hills, an extensive and rather desolate block of mountains, which, together with Clun Forest, occupy a considerable district between Newtown, Clun, and Bishop's Castle. The *Church*, restored 1875, contains a good marble monument in memory of one Richard Jones, who founded

a school here. There are several ancient works in the parish. 'The *Moat*' is the residence of the vicar.]

The railway, road, and canal now follow the course of the Severn through a prettily undulating country to

30 m. *Newtown Stat.* (*Inns*: Elephant and Castle; Bear's Head, indifferent), a modern manufacturing town (Population, 6974), where the visitor from the north of England will recognise the familiar sound of the clogs of the weavers as they leave the factories. A large business is done here in fine flannels, "the market for which was formerly held at Welshpool; but a feud arising between the two places, in consequence of an electioneering contest, the manufacturers determined to remove the market to Newtown, which was accordingly done on the 6th Sept., 1832." A large building has been erected at a cost of 4000*l.* for the purpose of holding this market.

Mr. Pryce Jones's *Welsh Warehouse* has a world-wide renown.

The old *Church* having fallen into decay, is replaced by a modern ch., in which are preserved the old carved wooden rood-screen and font, which fortunately have not shared the same fate as the ch. itself. The screen is of 14th cent. work, and its measurements belie the theory that it came from Abbey Cwmhir.

A little outside the town is *Newtown Hall*, formerly the seat of Sir John Pryse.

Newtown is the birth-place and burial-place of Robert Owen (1771, d. 1858), the social reformer, founder of New Lanark.

Rail to Builth, 32 m.; Llanidloes, 13½; Oswestry and Machynlleth, 30; Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, 32 m.

Distances.—Llandrindod Wells, 24 m.; Kerry, 3; Bishop's Castle,

15; Welshpool, 14; Llanfair-Caer-Einion, 10; Carno, 11; Builth, 32; Abbey Cwmhir, 15 m.

[About 1 m. on the Builth road is a picturesque waterfall, about 80 ft. in height.] The rly. to Llanidloes keeps along the S. or rt. bank of the Severn, which, however, it crosses before it reaches Llanidloes.

34½ m. at *Moat Lane Junct.* (Rte. 28) the line is joined by the Machynlleth Rly. for Aberystwyth (Rte. 28).

The scenery, which has been pastoral and soft, becomes bolder at

37½ m. *Llandinam*, romantically situated on the brink of a cliff overhanging the river, and at the foot of a range of hills which rise to the height of 1895 ft. The ch. possesses a singular wooden belfry. On rt. is a hill called *Cefn Carnedd*, which is surmounted by a very extensive camp about 200 yards long, commanding the entrance of the upper vale of Severn on the rt., and of the Carno on the l. It may be ascended from Caersws or Llandinam, perhaps most easily from the latter.

43½ m. *Llanidloes Stat.* (*Inns*: Trewythen Arms; Queen's Head).

From here the Mid Wales Rly. runs viâ Rhayader to Builth, Brecon, and Llandovery, thus completing an uninterrupted chain of communication between N. and S. Wales. Llanidloes, a busy place of 9239 Inhab., is, like Newtown, an emporium of the flannel trade, although in situation it has very much the advantage over it. The Severn, which throughout its course is called by its ancient Welsh name of *Hafren* by the natives, is here joined by the Clywedog. The source of the Severn, with which the traveller has kept "gentle fellowship" for so long a distance, is only 11 m. from the town. The only object worth inspection is the *Church*, which is one

of the most original and beautiful in the Principality. The aisle is separated from the nave by 6 pointed arches, supported by piers, having the capitals ornamented with carved palm-leaves. The roof is of carved oak, the hammer-beams being finished off with winged figures holding shields. There are 17 of these figures on each side, of which the 2 easternmost are of females, while the remainder represent ecclesiastics.

In 1839 Llanidloes was the scene of a Chartist riot, which culminated in a body of weavers and miners, who had been collected by concert by a man blowing a horn, attacking, capturing and wrecking the Trewhya Arms Inn. Though defended by the mayor and 50 special constables, the mob prevailed and released their fellow-rioters who had been made prisoners. At the end of 5 days, during which the mob held the town, they were put down by military and without bloodshed, peace restored and 32 culprits taken and tried at the assizes.

A pleasant *walk* may be taken up the pretty valley of the Clywedog.

About 3 m. N. of the town is *Llyn Iddwr*, a pool of about 100 acres in extent, situated on the high ground overlooking the vale of Tarannon and the village of Trefeglwys. Trout, perch, and pike abound in it.

Conveyances.—Rail to Oswestry and Machynlleth, 19 m.; also to Llanidloes and Brecon.

Distances.—Newtown, 13½ m.; Llangurig, 5; Rhayader, 15—old road by St. Harmon, 12; Machynlleth, 19; Trefeglwys, 4 m.

[An excursion may be made up the valley to its source, and from thence to the summit of *Plinlimmon*, about 14 m.; but the best ascent is from Dyffryn Castell, on the Rhayader and Aberystwyth road; neither of them should be made without a guide, on account of the dangerous

bogs that exist. The bridle-road on the N. or l. bank should be followed to Blaen Hafren, almost at the head of the valley, where the infant stream rolls over a lofty ledge of slate rock.

Perhaps of all the loftier Welsh mountains few repay the toil of ascent so little as *Plinlimmon*, considering its height of 2463 ft. Properly speaking, it consists of 3 mountains, which may be considered the centre of a large group spreading into subordinate chains. From near the summit spring the 5 rivers of the Rheidol, the Llyffnant, a tributary of the Dyfi, the Ystwith, the Wye, and the Severn; the sources of the two last being scarcely 2 m. apart.

“To princelie Severne first; next to her sister
Wye,
Which to her elder's court her course doth
still apply.
But Rydol, young'st and least, and for the
other's pride,
Not finding fitting room vpon the rising
side,
Alone vnto the west directlie takes her way,
So all the neighbouring hills Plinlimmon
obey.”—*Drayton.*

The pedestrian may vary his excursion by descending the course of the Gwy or Wye until it crosses the turnpike-road at Pont-rhyd-galed, and from thence to Llangurig.]

Our route to Aberystwyth (29 m.) here quits the Rly. and the Severn, and crosses the hills into the valley of the Wye.

48½ m. is the village of *Llangurig*, most charmingly situated in the vale of Wye, which has even in this its spring-time lost much of its early impetuous character. From hence the traveller may proceed up the valley of the Wye, of which he takes leave at 53½ m., but still ascends by the course of the Afon Tarenig, its tributary, as far as what was the *Plinlimmon Inn*, now in decay and nearly deserted, beyond which, at a place called *Steddfa Gurig*, the

narrow ridge forming the summit level is crossed. Here the tourist enters a different valley (whose waters flow in an opposite direction to those of the Wye), bounded by mountains whose rugged outline declares them to be composed of slate. Every now and then the appearance of a solitary building, with its fast-driving water-wheel and heaps of dirty refuse, proclaims that lead abounds, and that this is the district of mining adventurers.

59½ m. *Castell Dyffrya*, where there is a solitary and forlorn post-house, a road to the L. strikes off to the *Devil's Bridge*, 3 m., in Rte. 28.

61½ m. *Pont Erwyd* (*Inn*: Gogerddan Arms). It is worth while to stop and look at the falls of the Rheidol, in a wild rocky gorge close to the road, but at a considerable depth below it.

About 50 yds. before reaching the river a rough cross-road strikes over the hill, and in about 1 m. falls into the old post-road to the Devil's Bridge at Ysptyty Cynfyn. For more than 3 m. from Pont Erwyd the road ascends, bare moor and hills surrounding it on every side; but on arriving at the summit of Cefn Brwyno, a rapid descent takes place all the way to Aberystwyth. From here magnificent views are to be obtained over Cardigan Bay, particularly if the visitor happens to arrive at sunset.

67 m. on L. are the *Coginan* lead-mines, some of the most extensive in Cardiganshire, and which, as well as the *Lasburne* mines in Cwm Ystwith, are the most available and the best worth the inspection of the visitor. The appearance of the numerous large wheels, situated one above the other at different levels—the scabre grey hue of the jagged hills—the long, low sorting-houses, and the

noise of the stamping-machines,—all combine to throw a mysterious effect over the scene.

At the village of Capel Bangor the road joins company with the Rheidol, which forms, for the rest of the way, an agreeable feature in the landscape, which it enlivens with its sinuous windings.

73 m. l. the village of *Llanbadarn Fawr* is passed, famous for the *Church* of St. Padarn or Paternus, a saint of great renown, and friend of St. David and St. Teilo, who founded a monastery here in the time of the holy Dubritius. The existing *Ch.* is a cruciform structure of about the 12th cent., chiefly remarkable for its venerable and massive tower, rising from the centre and supported by 4 massive piers. There is a good doorway of the 12th cent. forming the entrance into the S. side of the nave and on the north side of the ch. are traces of buildings, apparently a part of the old monastery. Llanbadarn was visited by Archbishop Baldwin and Giraldus Cambrensis in 1188, at which time the monastery had, as we are told by the latter, lay-abbot—an evil custom of the period both in Wales and Ireland. In the interior of the ch. are monuments to the families of Jones of Nanteos, and Pryse of Gogerddan. Lewis Morris, the Welsh antiquary is buried in the chancel. In the ch.-yd. are two very ancient sculptured stone *Crosses*.

74 m. *Aberystwyth* Stat. (Rte. 28)

ROUTE 27A.

OSWESTRY TO LLANFYLLIN, BY
LLANMYNECH. THE VYRNWY
RESERVOIR.

A branch of the Cambrian Rly. 15 m.; 5 trains daily, in 1 hr. 20 m. As far as

6 m. *Llanymynech Stat.*, to be found in Rte. 27. Rly. ascends the valley of the Vyrnwy to

Llansantffraid Stat. The *Church*, dedicated to St. Ffraid or Bride, exhibits a few details of the 13th cent., although the greater part is of the 17th. Its font is of Norm. character, an ogee-pointed window and the remains of a double piscina in the S. wall are of the Dec. period; those of the roodloft belong to the Perpendicular. There is a wooden steeple at the W. end standing on a massive timber framework, and supporting a pretty little spire. From hence the line follows the pretty valley of the Cain to

Llanfechain Stat. Ch. very early Norm.

9 m. *Llanfyllin Terminus*, pronounced Thlanvutlin (*Inn*: *Wynn-stay Arms), a pretty Welsh townlet which boasts of a charter given by Llewelyn ap Gruffydd in the time of Edward II., and "is governed by a high steward, recorder, 2 bailiffs, 14 burgesses, a town-clerk, and 2 serjeants-at-arms." The Ch. dedicated to St. Myllin of the 7th cent., whose well still exists, has given place to an uninteresting brick building of the 18th cent., but is celebrated for its peal of bells, founded by Rudhall of Gloucester.

About 6 m. N. of this is Llan-

rhaiadr, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. from which is the Great Waterfall of Pistyll Rhaiadr (see Rte. 26A).

About 9 m. from this, in the heart of the Berwyn mountains, a grand engineering enterprise was commenced 1880, the formation of an artificial *Lake* 4 m. long, with an area greater than that of Bala Lake, to furnish a water supply to the city of Liverpool. To this end the water springs of the Vyrnwy and other streams rising on the sides of Carreg-y-Beg, Moel-y-Cerrig, Allt-y-Eyras, and others, forming the watershed between Montgomery and Merioneth, are gathered and arrested behind a dam 1255 ft. long, 60 feet high, built of 2 walls of masonry filled in with concrete, on foundations sunk 50 ft. deep, so as to reach the Caradoc beds. This dam is inserted into the heights on either side, which here approach, forming a throat to the valley or narrow opening at its S. end. In the portion of the valley thus flooded stood the village and Church of Llanwyddyn, now covered by a great depth of water. A new *Church* is to be built.

The embankment rises 100 ft. above the old river bed, and the new *Vyrnwy Lake* (Verniew) will have an area of 1115 acres, and its surface will stand 800 ft. above the sea-level. The land on which the lake is formed belonged to Earl Powys. The outlet for the water is at the S.E. end, through the *Hirnant Tunnel*, driven through the rock for $2\frac{1}{4}$ m. An *Aqueduct*, 67 m. long, partly above partly underground, will convey it by Oswestry, where is a reservoir and filtering bed, to Malpas, and it will enter Liverpool through pipes carried under the Mersey from the terminal Prescott reservoir. The engineers are Mr. T. Hawksley and Mr. G. F. Deacon. Three and a quarter millions sterling is the estimated cost of the undertaking.

ROUTE 28.

SHREWSBURY TO ABERYSTWYTH,
BY WELSHPOOL, NEWTOWN AND
MACHYNLLETH—RAIL.

The rly. to Welshpool traverses the line of the Rea Valley, which is considerably to the S. of the coach-road, and passes through Hanwood, where a branch diverges to Plealey, Pontesbury, and Minsterley, 9 m. from Shrewsbury. The main line continues through Yockleton, Westbury, and Middletown, passing through a much less interesting country than the coach-road, which crosses the Severn at Welsh Bridge, and through "the auncient streete cal'd Franckarell many a day."

1½ m. rt., at the hamlet of *Shelton*, the road diverges to Oswestry. An old oak formerly stood here, from the branches of which Owain Glyndwr is said to have reconnoitred the English army before the battle of Shrewsbury.

3 m. l. *Onslow Hall*, once the residence of Speaker Onslow. [5¼ m. a road on rt. runs to Llanfyllin and Bala (Rte. 21), passing 9 m. *Alberbury*, close to which is *Loton*, the beautiful seat of Sir Baldwin Leighton, Bart. The deer-park extends for a considerable distance up the slopes of the Breiddin Hills, which for the whole way from Shrewsbury have been most conspicuous features in the landscape. At 11 m., where the Severn was formerly joined by the Vyrnwy, on rt. is a singular conical mound, called *Belan Bank*, probably raised to guard the passage of the river, which is crossed by a narrow bridge at 13 m. the village

of Llandrinio. Soon afterwards the road joins the Oswestry and Welshpool road at Four Crosses (Rte. 27).]

6 m. l. Cardeston.

7 m. rt. *Rowton Castle*. The road now begins to leave behind the pleasant flats of Shropshire, and to ascend the slopes of the Breiddin Hills. 10½ m. rt. the village of *Woolaston*, near which there are a few early remains in the shape of tumuli and a moat.

The *Breiddin Hills*, the steep, wooded sides of which tower over the road, are a singular group, rising to the height of 1199 ft., though they appear more, in consequence of their isolation. The most precipitous peak is that of *Moel-y-golfa*, nearest Welshpool: it is divided from the other heights by deep ravines. The farthest or most northerly summit, overlooking the Severn, is crowned with *Rodney's Pillar*, erected to commemorate the victory obtained by that admiral over the French fleet in 1782. At the foot of the magnificent wood-covered escarpment stands the *village of Criggion*, with its picturesque little red sandstone ch. This hill answers better than any other to Tacitus's account of the last battle of Caractacus and Ostorius Scapula.

On the hill which rises behind the Pillar there are traces of an ancient fortress, as also of a considerable encampment at Cefn-y-Castell, behind *Moel-y-golfa*, which last peak ought to be ascended. The view is very charming, particularly towards the N.W. and W., looking over Oswestry and the red hills of Llanymynech, the wooded, parkish country about Meifod and Llanfyllin, backed up by the noble ranges of the Berwyns. To the E. the eye glances over the rich champaign flats of the Severn, with the spires of Shrewsbury in the distance. Southwards the most prominent feature is the Long Mountain, with its monotonous outline.

Geologically considered, these mountains are interesting, as marking a line of eruption, ranging from S.W. to N.E. They are "a mass of porphyritic and amygdaloidal greenstone, which, in its protrusion, has carried up included portions of slaty rocks, and has thrown off pebble beds and Upper Silurian (of the Long Mountain) to the S.E. and Lower Silurian to the N.W."—*Siluria*. They possess also singular attractions for the botanist.

16 m. l., at junction of a road which runs past Leighton modern Church and Hall (J. Naylor, Esq.) (Rte. 27) to Montgomery, is the humble ch. of *Buttington*, which contains a curious font, resembling the capital of an Early English column.

18 m. *Welshpool Junct.* (*Hotel: Royal Oak*) is described, together with Montgomery and the road to Newtown, in Rte. 27. From Newtown the road on the S. or rt. bank of the Severn is taken.

38½ m. *Moat Lane Junct.* [the "Moat" is a British earthwork, or moated mound, only second in interest to Cefn Carnedd, amongst the outlying works about Caersws]. Its name may be a corruption of "Moot," a place of meeting.

1 m. beyond, the "sandy-bottomed Severn is crossed at *Caersws Stat.*, a celebrated Roman station, placed in the centre of a valley into which 4 streams converge, the Severn, Taranon, Ceryst, and Carno. It is said to have obtained its name from a great queen, named Swsan, "who waged war against a prince who reigned over a tribe to the S. of the Severn. One day, seeing the enemy on the Llanlinam Hills, she marches her men over the river, and gives battle to the enemy. The prince, from the high ground, succeeds in repelling

the Caersws soldiers; and the spirited amazon, seeing a defeat inevitable, rides up and requests to be put to death, and to be buried with her brave men. The prince replies, 'No! thou art too brave to die at our hands; I grant thee a pardon.'"

The Roman castrum may still be seen, lying 300 yards N. W. of the Severn, and covering an area of about 7 acres. The road to Aberystwyth passes through a part of it. The vallum rises several feet above the natural level of the ground adjoining. Though delineated on the Ordnance Map as rectangular, the corners of the camp are now considerably rounded. Three Roman roads at least converged to Caersws, an evidence of its importance in Roman Britain. The excavations in 1854-5, conducted by the Rev. D. Davies, then curate of Llanwnnog, and recorded in the 'Archæol. Cambr.' for 1857, remove all doubt of its having been a Roman camp. Coins of Vespasian, Domitian, Postumus, Trajan, Severus, &c., were found; tiles with inscriptions thereon; fragments of Samian ware; pottery, drains, and villas were brought to light. These discoveries may well stimulate further inquiry, and encourage the theory that Caersws is the Mediolanum of Tacitus. On the neighbouring hillsides or tops are British camps, e.g., Cefn Carnedd, looking down on Caersws from a distance of about two miles, and commanding, with its entrenchments (measuring 650 yards by 200), the entrances to the Severn valley on the one hand, and that of the Carno on the other. The position of Cefn Carnedd with respect to Caersws may be compared with that of the British Pen-caer-Helen, in Caernarvonshire, as regards the Roman station of Caerhûn on the Conwy. 'The Moat,' too, on the S. of the Caersws valley is a singular earthwork, consisting of three parts, a coni-

cal mound, with a surrounding fosse, and a rectangular camp with an outer ditch. Almost opposite the moat on the other side of the valley is a hill called Gwyn Fynydd, with an elongated British camp upon it, close to which passed the Roman road to Deva, or Chester. At Tre Castell, a mile and a half from this camp, in the direction of Aberhafesp, and at Wyle Cop, near Llanwnnog church, are other remains of camps and stations. The whole country round Caersws will repay examination. It is certain that the Romans knew of and worked the lead mines in the neighbourhood of the present Van and Dylife mines; and one of their roads took the direction of the present Van railway, with the same object of conveying lead ore from the mountains of those parts to Caersws, where it was perhaps smelted. It is not unlikely that ancient Roman Caersws owed its existence to these lead mines.

Caersws appears to have been an important place subsequent to the Roman era, as Leland mentions of it, "In Arustli there is no pretty town, nor any market but Llanidloes; yet at poor Caersws hath been both a market and borough privilege."

From hence the line is carried up the valley of the Carno, a pretty stream, with well-wooded banks, though offering no special beauties to detain the tourist. The rly. and the road keep company for a considerable distance.

41½ m. *Pontdolgoch* Stat., and

45½ m. *Carno* Stat., a high and rather exposed village, where the Knights of Jerusalem are said to have possessed a religious house. Close to the ch.-yd. is the entrenchment of *Caer-y-Noddfa*, the 'fortress of refuge.' A great battle is said to have been fought on the mountains near Carno, in 949, between N. and S. Wallians; but it appears doubtful

whether the event took place here, or on the mountain of Carno overlooking the Vale of Crickhowell, in Breconshire.

From Carno the rly. runs through a wild country, with heavy gradients.

Near *Talerddig*, in the glen of the Ial, the Rly. is carried through a rock-cutting 113 ft. deep. Here is the summit level of the Cambrian Line, 700 ft. above the sea. This valley affords some very pleasing scenery, particularly at one spot, where there is a natural arch (? a semicircular curve in the rock strata) in the rock; also a good waterfall, called Nant Ysgolion.

6 m. near the confluence of the Ial, the Twymyn, and a 3rd brook which flows from the N., is the *Wynnstay Arms*, a convenient station and a comfortable hostelry for the angler or artist.

This is a good point from whence to visit the waterfalls at the head of the Twymyn, the uppermost of which, *Ffrwd Fawr*, is fine after much rain, having a perpendicular descent of 130 ft. They are about 6 m. from the *Wynnstay Arms*.

A rapid descent of 3 m., partly along the edge of a precipice, leads to

51½ m. *Llanbrynmair* Stat. The parish of Llanbrynmair (the ch. of which is 1½ m. S. of the inn) is very extensive, and contains, amongst the bleak hills to the N.E. of the Plinlimmon range, several lead-mines. In this parish was born Dr. Abraham Rees, editor of the *Encyclopædia* known by his name. Here the valley of the Twymyn joins that of the Dyfi.

51½ m. *Cemmaes Road* *Junct. Stat* *Inn*: Dovey Valley Hotel at Stat. We here enter the Vale of Dovey, famous for picturesqueness, and for the sport it affords to the angler.

A *Railway* branches hence to Dinas Mawddwy 7 m. (Rte. 23) ascending the Dovey. Our Rly. runs

or 2 m. along it. On the opposite bank of the river is the ch. of *Llan-rin*, which is 75 ft. in length. A little higher up the stream is the farmhouse of *Mathafarn*, the former residence of Dafydd Llwyd, celebrated seer and bard in the 15th cent. "Henry VII., when Earl of Richmond, passed the night here on his route from Milford to Bosworth." One of the largest silver mines in all Wales may be seen here.

1. *Penegoes* was the birthplace of Wilson the painter, who lies buried in the ch. of Mold.

17 m. *Machynlleth Stat. (Inn: Lion)* (see Rte. 25), is a good specimen of a quiet Welsh town. It numbers 2026 Inhab., is cleanly, well built, and situated in the centre of a charming neighbourhood; its wide streets planted with rows of trees, like a French Boulevard, but for the attraction of tourists it has no sights to show. It lays claim to antiquity, being generally supposed to have been the *Maglona* of the Romans, where a lieutenant was stationed in the reign of Honorius; at all events, if there was not a station here, there was one at Pennal, 4 m. on the Aberdovey road. In *Maengwyn-st.* was formerly the spacious arched porch of an ancient building known as the Parliament House; where, in 1402, Owain Glyndwr convoked a National Assembly, by whom the ceremony of coronation was performed, and Owain acknowledged as Prince of Wales. "At this meeting Sir David Gam, a Breconshire gentleman, and Owain's brother-in-law, was present, under the pretence of uniting in its object, but really with very different views. He had plotted the death of his countryman and prince; but the scheme was discovered when on the point of being executed. David was seized and imprisoned, and would

instantly have met with condign punishment, had it not been for the intercession of some of Owain's best friends and partisans."

Plas Machynlleth, on the S. side of the town, is a seat of the Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry.

Near the entrance lodge is an elegant Gothic Church, built in 1882 by Lord Londonderry.

Flannel-making is the great employment of the town and neighbourhood, though slate-quarries and some lead-mines, the produce of which is shipped at Derwenlas, on the Dyfi, contribute to its prosperity.

Machynlleth stands high as a fishing station, the Dyfi, or Dovey, between Cemmaes and the town, yielding some fine sport, which is carefully looked after by the Dyfi Angling Association. *Llyn Bugeilyn*, 10 m. S.E., by a very bad road, is also a likely spot, as well as *Llyn Penrhaiadr*, 6 m., which possesses the additional attraction of magnificent scenery in approaching it.

The latter lake can best be visited from *Machynlleth*, either by taking the Aberystwyth road to Pont Llyfnant, and then following the glen up to its head, or by a much shorter route across the country due S. The *Llyfnant*, which here divides N. and S. Wales, rises in *Llyn Penrhaiadr*, and soon forms a very fine waterfall at *Pistyll-y-Llyn*, dashing over the naked rocks from a great height. By the side of the precipice is a narrow winding path, which may be followed to the lake, which is situated on very high ground to the N.W. of *Plinlimmon*. The whole of this region is associated with Owain Glyndwr and his chosen band, who betook themselves into the fastnesses of the surrounding mountains. About 1 m. to the E. of the lake is *Bwlch Hyddgenn*, a spot where the Flemings were routed by him with considerable slaughter. *Tal-y-Llyn* (Rte. 25) is

halfway, 10 m., between Machynlleth and Dolgelley, both the road and Rly. to Corris, following a great part of the way the course of the pretty river Dulas, and passing at 5 m. the slate quarries of Corris (Rte. 22).

Rail to Shrewsbury, 61 m.; Aberystwyth, 20; and Pwllheli, 57 m.

Distances.—Dolgelley, 16 m.; Aberdovey, 10; Pennal, 4; Mallwyd, 12; Cemmaes, 7; Dinas Mawddwy, 14; Wynnstay Arms, 11; Llanidloes, 19; Llyn Bugeilyn,* 9; Llyn Penrhaiadr, 6; Newtown, 30; Oswestry, 48.

The rly. to Aberystwyth runs by the S. bank of the Dyfi, which soon expands into an estuary. It passes *Derwen Las*, a small shipping-port for slates and lead-ore, and

Pont Llyffnant, a little beyond which a road on l. runs up the stream to the waterfall and Llyn Pen Rhaiadr, about 6 m. *Glandyfi Castle* is beautifully situated on a range of rock overlooking the Dyfi and the sea.

65½ m. *Glandyfi Junct.*, where the main line for North Wales is given off (Rte. 25). Our line now skirts the coast to

70½ m. *Ynys Las Stat.*, where there is a ferry to Aberdovey.

73½ m. *Borth Stat.* There is a very good hotel here (Cambrian), and it is a quiet resting-place for those who prefer tranquillity to the more frequented watering-places. The sands extend 4 m., with considerable width at low water, and are firm and smooth. They skirt a vast fen-like marsh called Cors Fochno.

75½ m. *Llanfihangel Stat.*, on the hill above which is an ancient fortification, referred to in Welsh history as *Castell Gwallter*, or *Walter's Castle*, so named from *Walter L'Espece*, one of the Norm. invaders. The earthwork and outlines are very distinct.

77 m. *Bow Street Stat.*, just above

which there is a large encampment at *Yr Hen Gaer*.

81½ m. *Aberystwyth Stat.*

The road from Machynlleth passes *Glandyfi Castle*, and

6 m. *Eglwys Fach*. 8 m. it then skirts the demesne of *Park Lodge*, and passes through the hamlet of *Tre'r Ddol*, to the rt. of which extends the flat alluvial surface of the partially drained *Ynys Fochno*.

¾ m. rt. is the ch. of *Llancynfelin*. 69½ m. on rising ground, called *Pen-sarn Ddu*, l. is *Tre Taliesin*, supposed on good authority to have been the burial-place of the bard. The cairn, in the centre of which is the cistvaen, or grave, is about 135 ft. in circumference. *Taliesin*, it should be remembered, was a foundling, discovered in the fishing weir near *Borth* by *Elphin* the son of *Gwyddno*, after the sea had swept away his inheritance, and the weir was his sole means of livelihood. 2 or 3 m. farther up the mountain are some Druidical circles, also a British fortress at *Moel-y-gaer*, 11 m. The river *Lery* is crossed at the hamlet of

13 m. *Talybont (Inn: Gogerddan Arms)*. 1 m. rt. is the beautifully situated ch. of *Llanvihangel-geneu'r-glyn*. At *Rhyd-y-pennau* the road from Aberdovey through *Borth* falls in. Another large encampment is to be found at *Yr Hen Gaer*, on a hill overlooking 14½ *Bow-str.* 5 m. the little river *Clarach* is crossed, leaving on l. *Gogerddan*, the ancient seat of the *Pryse* family.

1. 1 m. short of Aberystwyth, see the Church of *Llanbadarn Fawr* (see below).

18 m. *Aberystwyth Stat. (Inns: Queen's; Bellevue*, both facing the sea; *Lion*). This popular watering-place is prettily situated on the seashore, between the hills at the mouth of the *Rheidol*, which, after passing

under a bridge of 5 arches, here unites itself with the Ystwith in an artificial channel, both together falling into the Bay of Cardigan. The union of the 2 rivers was effected in order (by strengthening the current and increasing the volume of water) to scour out the harbour. It is a sort of Welsh Brighton, resorted to in the summer-time for sea-bathing, and abounds in lodging-houses, of which the best are to be found on the Terrace, a crescent facing the sea and following the curve of the beach. In front of it are the bathing-machines, and hot salt-water baths are provided near at hand and in the town. The beach shelves down very rapidly; and as the tide comes in at times with great force, bathers should be cautious not to advance too far, lest they should be caught in the draught; at such times it is dangerous to attempt to swim. The beach is remarkable for the quantity of pebbles to be found on it—such as cornelians, onyx, &c.; the searching for which is often the principal occupation of visitors, who, particularly after a storm, wander up and down with bent backs and downcast eyes. The harbour having become obstructed by the formation of a bar at its mouth, a *Pier* has been constructed, projecting on one side 300 and on the other 100 yds. into the sea. One chief object of this pier or mole, which extends in a N.N.W. direction towards Bardsey Island, is to protect the outfall of the united rivers, Rheidol and Ystwith, from the swell of the ocean.

On a lofty rock overlooking the sea, at S. end of the Crescent, stand the *ruins of the Castle*, originally founded by Gilbert de Strongbow, a greedy and unscrupulous Norman baron, who received a licence from his master, Henry I., founded on the charter of "the strong hand," to seize as much

as he could of the lands of the Welsh chieftain Cadwgan ap Bleddyn, Prince of Powis; and the result was that, by the aid of a superior force, he dispossessed him of all Cardiganshire, and secured it to himself by building strong castles. The existing remains, consisting of a gateway, a tower about 40 ft. high, with an arched doorway grooved for 2 portcullises on the N.W., and fragments of other towers and walls, are probably of the time of Edward I., who built a castle here after granting peace on very harsh terms to Llewelyn ap Gryffydd. Mr. Bushel, the fortunate proprietor of the neighbouring lead and silver mines, established here a mint, with permission of Charles I., to pay his workmen by coinage of bullion drawn out of mines within the Principality. He afterwards showed his gratitude by lending the king 40,000*l.*, by clothing the whole of his army, and by raising, at his own expense, a regiment among his own miners. The pieces thus coined are marked with the Prince of Wales's Feathers, bear dates between 1638 and 1642, when the Mint was transferred to Shrewsbury, and are common in the cabinets of collectors. The castle was besieged by the Parliamentarians during the civil war, and was bombarded by Cromwell from the neighbouring height at Pendinas—such, at least, is the local tradition. It is much more probable, however, that the castle was first mined and then blown up, the huge fragments still visible strongly negating the Pendinas theory. From the time of its capture its present decay may be dated.

The Castle hill and the ruins are planted, and rendered accessible by agreeable public walks. Adjoining the castle are the *Public Rooms* and the ch., of which all that can be said is, that it offers suitable accommodation. Between the castle and the pier stands the *University College*,

an imposing structure, the centre of which is the Castle House, erected by Nash for Sir Uvedale Price, whilst the more modern portions were designed by Mr. J. P. Seddon, originally for a monster hotel.

In the environs of the town, on the banks of the Rheidol, and approachable by a pleasant inland walk alongside a mill-dam, is Plas-crug, a ruined castellated house, said to have been the residence of Owain Glyndwr; and near it is a chalybeate spring, whose waters are said to resemble in their properties those of Tunbridge Wells.

Good Walks and *fine Views* may be gained by climbing to the top of Constitution Hill, or Craig-lais, at N. end of the terrace beyond the Queen's Hotel. It is traversed by agreeable walks, and there is a path stretching N. along the cliffs as far as Borth Sands, 5 m., overlooking the Estuary of the Dovey, and commanding very fine views.

Pen Dinas, N.E. of the town, crossing the bridge over the Rheidol and passing under the Rly.

Llanbadarn Church, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. out of the town, contains monuments of the Pryses of Gogerddan, the Jones of Nanteos, also some good carved screen work. In the ch.-yd. are 2 old stone crosses.

Railways to North Wales, Caernarvon, Bangor, Dolgelley, Shrewsbury, and South Wales.

Distances. — Llanidloes, 28 m.; Newtown, 41; Welshpool, 54; London, 226; Liverpool, 115; Rhayader, 33; Kington, 60; Hereford, 80; Devil's Bridge, 12; Machynlleth, 18; Oswestry, 66; Ruabon, 68; Aberayron, 16; Lampeter, 29; Caermarthen, 51; Cardigan, 23; Aberdovey, 11 m.

made to the *Devil's Bridge*, 12 m. The public conveyances which run in summer time from the Queen's and Belle Vue Hotels, usually take the road on S. side of the Rheidol Valley, and return on the N. side by way of Ysppyty Cynfyn (*post*) and Pont Erwyd. The round is about 27 m. By private conveyance a more pleasing route may be taken, viâ Hafod (*post*), though this increases the distance 8 m. The road at first is extremely steep and hilly, occasionally affording exquisite peeps into the valley of the Rheidol. The Devil's Bridge Hotel (large and comfortable) is finely situated, overlooking from a height of 300 ft. the leafy glen of the Rheidol, while immediately below the house runs the narrower gorge of the Mynach, which here joins the Rheidol, filling the air with the roar of its waters. The Devil's Bridge ('Pont-ar-Fynach,' or the 'Bridge on the Mynach,' as it is called by natives, though they, too, sometimes call it Pont-y-Gwr-Drwg, or the 'Bridge of the Evil One') is not more than 30 yds. from the house on the road to Rhayader, and might easily be passed without exciting attention, so completely is the narrow gorge which it spans choked up by trees and shrubs. It consists, properly speaking, of 2 bridges—a lower one, now a mere curve of rude masonry, built, it has been surmised, in the 11th or 12th cent., by the monks of Strata Florida Abbey, whence comes its Welsh name; and a more modern arch immediately over it, of about 30 ft. span, built in 1753, at a height of 120 ft. above the torrent, which is barely perceived among trees and rocks, working its way through the dark abyss below. There is a similar double bridge on the Pass of St. Gothard among the Alps; the modern and upper arch having been made, as is the case here also, to avoid the inconvenient descent to

[A beautiful excursion can be

the lower and older one, which in both instances, from the boldness of its construction, has been attributed by the wondering peasantry to the architecture of the Devil, the Satanic Pontifex Maximus.

The falls of the Mynach are in the grounds of the Hotel Company, who charge 1s. for each visitor, which frees him as often as he likes to go. The falls of the Rheidol may be visited with more difficulty by another path.

The best way to see the bridge is to cross it, and, taking a path to the rt., descend to the water's edge. Immediately under the bridge the gorge is reduced to a mere crack in the slate rock, over which, to all appearance, a man might stride. The torrent in descending towards it rushes and boils among the hard rocks—

"The fall of waters, rapid as the light,
The flashing mass foams, shaking the
abyss"—

and, by the aid of the small stones which it whirls along with it, has scooped out the sides into grooves, giving to the bed of the stream the appearance of a succession of huge cauldrons. The original rent must have been formed by some great convulsion of nature, since no power of water, in the present state of the globe, is capable of effecting it.

Most engravings of this bridge represent in one and the same view the waterfalls also; but in this licence taken by the painter is as great as that allowed to poets, since from no point accessible at present can the bridge be seen at the same time as the falls, owing to a bend in the ravine. The falls may be seen by taking another pathway on the l. of the high road, about 30 yds. beyond the bridge, which leads by a rude staircase cut in the splintery rock through the underwood to a prominent projecting between the

Rheidol and Mynach, just above their junction; ascend by the path in front of the hotel, which commands beautiful views of the falls individually. In times of flood, when the channel is full, the stream presents a magnificent spectacle, descending amidst rocks and rich foliage in a succession of leaps, respectively 18, 60, 20, and 110 ft. high. The 4th descent is to the fall of the Rheidol, opposite the hotel, in which the cataract is 70 ft. in height; the roar of waters, together with the narrowness of the ravine, the exquisite foliage on all sides, and the towering mountains which close it in, all combine to make a rare picture. The ravine and stream at the foot are crossed by an iron suspension-bridge. For this descent it is advisable to engage a guide, as it is always difficult, and after rains dangerous.

On the hill opposite the bridge is an ancient fortification called Castell fan Gwrach.

About $1\frac{3}{4}$ m. on the Rhayader road is the little ch. of *Yspytty Cynfyn* (from its name formerly an hospitium), in the churchyard of which are 3 Druidical stones; and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. on the l., in a deep and gloomy defile, is the *Parson's Bridge*, which the tourist should not neglect to visit, for its very wild and picturesque beauty. A handrail is thrown from rock to rock and secured by chains, while the Rheidol foams underneath, confined between two projecting rocks. From the Parson's Bridge the ravine may be ascended on the opposite side, and the path followed to Pont Erwyd (Rte. 27), and thence an alternative route may be taken, along the other side of the Rheidol to Aberystwyth.]

[The Devil's Bridge is a most convenient point from which to make an excursion to Hafod, 5 m., Strata Florida Abbey, 8 m., and

Plinlimmon Mountain, 9 m. The visitor who only wishes to go as far as Hafod should arrange to return to Aberystwyth by the new road along the Ystwith to Llanavan. For rather more than 3 m. the old Rhayader road is followed, through the *Arch* built by the late Col. Johnes to commemorate the Jubilee year of the reign of George III. From hence a rapid descent for a mile will bring the tourist to *Hafod*, a princely estate, where the beauties of nature and art have been mingled in a rarely happy manner. Like many large estates and show-places, Hafod has known many vicissitudes, and changed owners several times. The property, originally a wild and barren glen, in 1783 came into the hands of Col. Johnes, who, at once seeing the improvements of which it was susceptible, from that time devoted the remainder of his life and fortune to that object. The bleak hills were planted with the almost incredible number of 3,000,000 trees, besides many acres that were sown with acorns; and with what success the densely-wooded hills and valleys all round attest. A large Gothic mansion in the bad taste of the time was erected by Mr. Baldwyn, of Bath, in which Col. Johnes accumulated valuable treasures of art and literature, including paintings and a library unique for its collection of MSS., among which were illuminated MSS. of Froissart. While collecting these rarities, he printed at his private press translations of Froissart and Monstrelet's Chronicles. In 1807 the whole house, with nearly all that it contained, was burnt to the ground, at a loss to the owner of 70,000*l.* Nothing daunted by this calamity, he set himself to repair the damage, had his house rebuilt by Nash, a great portion of whose work still exists, and made a fresh collection of books and MSS. Col. Johnes, however, died in 1816, in straitened

circumstances, after which the estate, having been taken into Chancery, fell into sad decay until 1841, when the Duke of Newcastle bought it for 62,000*l.* In 1845 it was resold to H. Hoghton, Esq., for 94,000*l.*, whose improvements included the bell-tower, erected in the Italian style by Mr. Salvin. The contrast between the old house of Nash, with its puerility of design, and the Italian roofs and terraces of the new portion, is very striking. It was resold to Mr. Chambers in 1857 for 102,000*l.*, and again by him, in 1871, to some speculative capitalists in lots, one of which, of 400 acres, included the Devil's Bridge. The Ystwith flows through the grounds, amidst constantly varying scenes, and numerous tributary brooks rush down the hill-sides in cascades of every height, which a judicious thinning of timber has opened to view. The principal object of attraction in the grounds is the *Piran Fall*, which, although of no great magnitude, is very romantic, the visitor being made to approach it through a tunnel in the rock; there are also several other very pretty falls in the grounds. The *Church*, called in Welsh *Eglwys Newydd*, is charmingly placed on the hill-side, not far from the entrance lodge. It contains one of *Chantrey's* finest sculptures, an elaborate monument to the memory of Miss Johnes, in white marble, representing the parents standing at the death-bed of the daughter.

There is a good painted window in the S.W. transept, which was brought to this country from Holland.

On a commanding wooded knoll, not far from the ch., is an obelisk erected by Mr. Johnes to the memory of the Duke of Bedford.

The visitor will do well to leave Hafod by the southern entrance, near which the Ystwith is crossed at the picturesque little hamlet of

Pont-rhyd-y-groes (*Inn*: Bear). By this hamlet and Crosswood (Trawscoed, the nearest Rly. stat. 7 m.), he can, if he choose, return to Aberystwyth, 15 m.]

On the opposite ascent are the *Lisburne* lead-mines, employing a large number of people. Two of the most important veins of ore in Cardiganshire, the Fronfraith and the Glog Las, are worked here, producing in 1857 about 3000 tons of lead. The veins, from 4 to 6 ft. in thickness, run E. and W., sending out thinner veins from the main lodes, the traces of which are constantly to be found in the beds of the brooks and ravines on the sides of the hill. Unless the visitor be a geologist, an inspection of the interior of a lead-mine is scarcely worth the trouble, as at the very outset a complete mining dress has to be donned, and a long distance of wet dreary passages to be traversed before he arrives at the scene of operations. Having descended a fatiguing number of steps by ladders, crept into the hole where the miners are at work, and become accustomed to the vapours of powder-smoke, he will find that the lode does not possess much of the glittering appearance that a specimen of lead-ore in a cabinet presents.

[From the *Lisburne* mines the tourist who does not wish to proceed to *Strata Florida* can return to Aberystwyth through *Llanafan*. A private road, open to visitors, has been formed by the mine-owners on the southern bank of the river, which joins the old Aberystwyth road at Pont *Llanafan*.

Many fine bits of river-scenery occur, particularly at *Craig Colommenod*, or the Doves' Rock, a very high perpendicular rock, appearing to stand out in the very course of the stream. At Pont *Llanafan* the river is crossed by a road which leads on the l. to *Ystrad Meirig* and *Tregaron*. Some romantic scenery and a waterfall are to be found in a dingle which accompanies this road a little to the W.

From *Llanafan*, the ch. of which contains an ancient silver Communion-dish, presented by the Earls of *Lisburne*, a ride of 10 m. will bring the traveller to Aberystwyth, by

Trawscoed Stat. distant 7 m. from Devil's Bridge; on the rt. bank *Crosswood* (Welsh, *Trawscoed*), the beautiful park of the Earl of *Lisburne*, the principal landowner of the district. On the opposite side of the river is *Birchgrove*.

2 m. farther the road quits the valley of the *Ystwith*, and ascends high ground to Aberystwyth, passing on rt. *Nanteos*, the seat of Col. Powell.]

The ruins of *Strata Florida Abbey* (founded circ. 1194) are 6 m. S. of *Hafod*. The old Abbey house is now a common farm-homestead, and within the precincts of the Abbey stands a small church. Of the original buildings, a fine western doorway and a bit of wall near the E. end alone remain. The *Strata Florida* Railway Stat. is 3 m. W. of the ruins, and 15 m. from Aberystwyth. (See *Handbook for South Wales*.)

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THE END.

PREFACE.

WITHIN the last fifty years, South Wales has gradually become so opened up by roads and railways, that almost every part of it is now easily accessible to the tourist. The sole exception is the district between Haverfordwest and St. Davids, and the sea-coast thence to Aberaeron.

The same cause has tended so largely to the development of mining and manufacturing enterprise, that the face of the country is, in many districts, completely changed, and many of its natural characteristics are being swept away. It is one consolation, though this will be cold comfort to the tourist, that the people are growingly prosperous.

The Editor had done his best to correct mistakes, and to indicate changes by enquiries made on the spot, and by application to local residents, whose kindly assistance as well as that of several friends and archæologists he gratefully acknowledges; but, as inaccuracies will creep in, he requests that any notice of such may be kindly sent to him, to the care of Mr. MURRAY, 50A, Albemarle Street.

1889.

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*. * The names of places are printed in **Black type** only in those routes where the *places* are described.

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I. PHYSICAL FEATURES.

EW countries are more diversified than S. Wales, or present greater contrasts and variety in scenery. All the requisites of perfect landscape,—mountains (though seldom rising to the grand), desert moors, wooded hills, smiling valleys, broad rivers, and rushing torrents,—all offer themselves in turn to the view of the traveller. The mountain ranges may be divided broadly into 4 groups, each forming the characteristic feature of a quarter of the country, and each giving rise to one more of the principal rivers.

1. *The S.E. Division*, comprising roughly the district between Llanberis and Llanddeilo on the N., Newport and Kidwelly on the S.—The space between these towns is almost entirely filled up by one massive group, which in fact constitutes the coal-basin of S. Wales, bounded on the N. and E. by the valley of the Usk, and on the W. by that of the Towey. The principal eminences in this range are the Brecon (1908 ft.), Mynydd Llangynider, Brecon Beacons (2910 ft.), Merthyr Tydfil Beacons (2598 ft.), the Fan Lisgaer, Talsarn, Talsarnau, and Trichrûg, the northern slopes of which give rise to the Usk and its tributaries, the Senni, Tarell, &c. About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. nearly due E., and within the county boundary, is the Fan Brechelmorig, Breconshire Beacon, 2631 ft. (This is 12 m. W. of the Brecon Beacon = 2910 ft.) On the southern slopes, however, a different arrangement prevails; and instead of a tolerably uniform line of old sandstone and mountain limestone hills extending E. and W., lofty and narrow ridges containing coal-measures are thrown out in a general direction to the S. or S.W., most of them running nearly to the sea-

coast. In consequence of this the valleys change their direction to due N. and S., the country is more broken and romantic, and the streams narrower and more impetuous.

The most noticeable of these ridges are Cefn Crib, Cefn Gelligae (1574 ft.), Mynydd Llangynidr, Merthyr, Mynydd Llangeinor, Craig-y-Llyn, Cefn, Mynydd March Howel, Cefn Drim, and Mynydd Carn Goch, from whence emerge the Ebbw, Rhymney, Taff with its feeder Rhondda and Cynon, the Llynfi, Ogmore, Afon, Neath, Tawe, Lloughor, and Gwendraeth rivers. It must not be forgotten, too, that the Usk after flowing due E. from Treacastle to Abergavenny, turns abruptly to the S. to fall into the Bristol Channel at Newport.

2. *The S.W. Division*, which we may imagine to be bounded by Cardigan and Llandovery on the N., Pembroke and Caermarthen on the S., is chiefly marked by the Preseley Hills (1754 ft.), running from E. to W. and dividing the county of Pembroke into two parts. From thence a range of high ground continues to Llandovery, occupying the district between the Cothi, Towey, and Teifi.

The principal streams arising from these hills are the Cothi and Gwili, joining the Towey near Caermarthen; the Taf and the Cleddau, which fall into the Bristol Channel at Milford Haven: besides the Gwaine and Nevern, which fall into the sea at Fishguard and Newport respectively.

3. *The N.E. Group* may be again subdivided by the Wye, which runs through the centre of it in rather a circuitous course. Between the great valleys of the Usk and Wye are the Black Mountains and Hatterill Hills, an immense block of mountains, of which the principal heights are Pencader (2630 ft.), Pen-carreg-calch (2250 ft.), and Penallt Mawr (2361 ft.), with the outliers of the Sugarloaf and Scyrrid, while further to the W. are the ranges of Cefn Llyddlo, Mynydd Epynt, and Bwlch-y-groes, together with the high grounds round Llanwrtyd known as the Forest of Esgob and Drygarn. These mountains give birth to the tributaries of the Usk and Wye: of the former, the Grwyney, Honddu, and Yscir; of the latter, the Monnow, Yrfon, Chweffru, Claerwen, and Elan. The district N. of the Wye is wild and isolated, consisting chiefly of Radnor Forest and its outliers, which embraces the whole of Radnorshire and includes the picturesque scenery in the neighbourhood of Builth and Rhayader. The Edw. Ithon, and Marteg are tributaries to the Wye from these highlands, though the most northerly portion is watered by the Teme, Lugg, and Arrow, which flow in an easterly direction through the fertile plains of Herefordshire.

4. *The N.W. Division* is the wildest of the whole, comprising on the S. the extensive chain of mountains between the Towey and the Teifi, or in other words between Llandovery and Tregaron. Although extending over a very large area, they nevertheless affect a S.W. bearing, a similar though smaller chain running in the same direction between the Teifi and the sea. The most lofty eminences in this group are the Tregaron Mount (1754 ft.) and Craig Twrch near

ampeter. The sources of two of the finest rivers in S. Wales, the Towy and Teifi, are to be found in these hills, and that of the Aeron in the parallel range of Mynydd Bach.

All these are separated by the Ystwyth from the N. Cardiganshire mountains, amongst which Plynlimmon (2463 ft.) is the most conspicuous; indeed, physically speaking, these latter would seem to be placed by the deep valleys of the Ystwyth and Rheidol within the catalogue of N. Wallian hills. Besides these principal groups, there are of course many less important heights, which are alluded to or described in the respective routes.

II. GEOLOGY.

For the study of the *Lower Rocks* there is no more interesting country than the southern portion of the Principality, which offers frequent and instructive series. Of course a summary cannot attempt to take in detail the minutiae of such an important and widely-spread subject; for them the geologist is referred to the 'Memoirs of the Geological Survey,' vol. ii., which contains a most valuable article by the late Sir H. De la Beche on the Formation of Rocks in S. Wales; the 2nd edition of 'Siluria,' by Sir R. Murchison; and various articles in the 'Geological Transactions' and 'Geologist Magazine.'

1. The most recent formation in S. Wales, excluding the alluvial and drift deposits (the latter of which may be observed at Pentyrch and Hensol near Llantrissant), is that of the *Lias*. A large portion of what is called the Vale of Glamorgan is composed of Lias rocks, resting at different localities on different bases, and overlying this district in a rather irregular manner. Though absent at many points, the Lias may be described in general terms as extending from near Cardiff to Pyle, where (and from this place to Bridgend) it reposes on the Triassic marls. From the mouth of the Ogmore to Cowbridge it is found resting on upturned and disturbed Carboniferous Limestone, and spreading out in a somewhat peninsular form past Colwinston to Ewenny. Near Southerndown (Rte. 1) and Dunraven it is well seen, lying horizontally on the upturned mountain-limestone, and again at the entrance of Cowbridge from Bridgend. At Llanblethian, a little to the S., the Carboniferous Limestone rises up abruptly, being enfolded on all sides by the Lias. Near Peterston-super-Ely it is observed resting on the Old Red. A good locality for studying these rocks is on the N. side of Barry Island, where they, together with the New Red marls, are tilted up by a fault. Detached outliers are found to the E. of Newport, resting upon the Old Red and capping the knolls on the rt. of the rly. at Llanwern, Lliswerry, and Bishton. The best points for the geologist and collector are Llanwern, Maindee near Newport, Penarth Head, and Lavernock Point near Cardiff, where the Lias rests on the Rhoetic or Penarth beds, as they are called in the Ordnance Maps Survey (see a very able paper by Mr. Etheridge, 'Cardiff Nat. History Soc. Transactions,' vol. 3, pt. 2), Southerndown, and the coast generally.

There are also some tolerably good quarries between Llandaff and St. Fagans, though, as a rule, Lias fossils in S. Wales are not abundant.

2. The *Triassic* series are not largely exposed, but may be examined in sections where they are found covered by Lias, such as Penarth Head. Superficially they form the level grounds in the neighbourhoods of Caldicot and Mathern, as also small patches at Peterston near St. Fagans, Coity, and from thence to Pyle.

3. The *Dolomitic* or *Permian Rocks* are considerably developed, and may generally be found occupying the slopes of the mountain-limestone hills. Small isolated patches are seen near Chepstow and Mathern, but the great bulk of this formation is in the district of Llandaff, Radyr, and St. Fagans, from whence a broad line, often interrupted either by a covering of Lias or a protrusion of Carboniferous Limestone, occupies the southern slopes of the hills for more or less of the entire distance to Kenfig Point. The most important and interesting locality for studying these rocks is at Llantrissant, Llanharan, and Llanharry, in connection with the hæmatite workings carried on at these places (Rte. 1). Permian deposits will also be found at Bonvilstone, Cowbridge, Coity, and along the southern slopes of Newton Downs. The dolomitic conglomerate at Newton Nottage has produced the dinosaurian footprints known as *Brontozoum Thomasii*. This is the only locality in Europe where they have been found. Splendid impressions can be seen in the Free Museum, Cardiff.

4. The *Carboniferous System* is extensively and beautifully observed in the great S. Wales coal-field, which is perhaps the most perfect and regular coal-basin in the whole world. In shape it is, strictly speaking, that of a pear, with the smaller end towards the W., its greatest length being from Pontypool to Kidwelly, about 70 m., while the greatest breadth is about 25 m., from Merthyr or Hirwain to Cardiff. The Pembrokeshire field is not included in this measurement, differing a good deal in the arrangement of beds and quality of coal, and being separated by a considerable interval of Old Red sandstone. The basin is bounded on the N., E., and N.W. by a tolerably uniform belt of mountain limestone and millstone grit, and on the S. partly by the waters of the Channel, beneath which, indeed, many coal-measures run, and partly by the interlacement of Liassic and Dolomitic rocks just described.

a. The *Mountain Limestone* on the N. extends from the Bloreng Mountain near Abergavenny, in a nearly straight line to Llandeilo, where it bears off S.W. to the sea-coast at Kidwelly, the average thickness being somewhat over 500 ft. There are also two conspicuous outliers, viz. Pen-carreg-calch near Crickhowel and Carreg-Cennen (on which the famous castle is built), giving proof of the immense amount of denudation that has taken place. From their superior height and rugged escarpments, the limestone hills of the N. crop present infinitely finer scenery than those on the S., which, as we have seen, are often obscured by Permian and Liassic deposits. From Pontypool southwards to Risca, and thence westward to Caerphilly and Pentyrch, the

limestone is uninterrupted; but S. of Llantrissant it becomes considerably covered up by the Dolomitic conglomerate, although large surfaces are exposed between Cowbridge, Penlline, and Llanharry to the N., and to Caerau on the E. It is again well seen between Bridgend and St. Bride's, as also forming the heights of Newton Down. Proceeding westward, these rocks are found to be increasing in thickness, as shown in the magnificent coast-range of Mumbles and the cliffs of Gower (Rte. 2), which attain a depth of about 1500 ft. Finally they reappear in S. Pembrokeshire, forming the S. border of that coal-field. It must not be inferred from what has been said, that the Pembrokeshire field does not belong to the main basin, either geologically or geographically, but it is thought more convenient to describe it separately; the mountain limestone, however, may be treated of at once. Like that of S. Glamorganshire, it appears at intervals, forming narrow bands across the country. One, very thin, extends from the coast near Amroth to Haverfordwest; a second from Tenby to Pembroke, through and parallel to which the old red sandstone of the Ridgeway rises up; and a third comprises the splendid coast-range of St. Gowan's Head and the Stack Rocks. The geologist will be at no loss to obtain sections either here or in any other portion of the field; nor, generally speaking, will he fail in obtaining good typical fossils. The best localities may be briefly pointed out: Llanelly, Llangattock, Trefil near Tredegar, Castle Morlais, Penderyn, Dinas Craig, on the N. crop; Jaerphilly, Castell Coch, Llantrissant, Mumbles, Worm's Head, Tenby, and Caldy Island, on the S. border. The rocks on the N. are universally worked to supply the furnaces of the ironworks; but on the S. the discovery of the hæmatite ores at Penttyrch and Llantrissant has given them an additional value.

β. The *Millstone Grit* may well be studied over the whole of the N. crop of the S. Wales basin. It lies over the mountain limestone, and forms a table-land with a southerly inclination, from which most of the rivers of the coal-field take their rise, to run due S. to the Bristol Channel. The junction of these beds with the mountain limestone is marked by a quartzose conglomerate, locally called pudding-stone. On the S. crop the millstone grit soon disappears near Penttyrch. There are, however, beds at Bishopston in Gower (Rte. 2), known as the Black Shales of Gower, which attain a considerable thickness. Their position is somewhat obscure, but it is not improbable that they belong partly to the millstone grit series and partly to that of the (locally named) Farewell Rock, which is almost universally found in this basin underlying the coal measures and lying on the millstone grit. It is so called because the colliers consider that there is no coal worth working in this rock, though in some places rather valuable seams are found. Along the whole of the N. crop this Farewell Rock series is remarkable for being the horizon of a marine-shell bed (coal and ironstone), which was traced by the writer for upwards of 60 m. It may be examined at Beaufort, Rhymney Gate, Pont-Neath-Vaughan (Rte. 10), and Cwm Amman (Rte. 21).

γ. The *Coal Measures* are of the greatest thickness near Neath, where the lowest strata are 700 fathoms below the outcrop of the upper ones in the hilly districts. They can be best examined on the N. crop, for the reason that the “basseting” or inclination towards the crop is of a more gentle character than it is on the S., where the beds emerge at a very steep angle of inclination. The area of the coal-field is estimated at about 640,000 acres, the thickness of the workable coal differing in different places, viz. at Merthyr about 55 ft., on the N.E. crop 35, and on the S. outcrop upwards of 100 ft. The lower measures are best seen in Monmouthshire, Breconshire, and N. Glamorganshire, and the upper measures in the centre of Glamorgan and Caermarthenshire. Although the basin is so uniform externally, it is by no means so in its interior arrangements, as there is an enormous saddle or anticlinal line running E. and W. from Newbridge in the valley of the Ebbw, to Pontypridd, Maesteg, and Llanelly in Caermarthenshire. A little S. of this is another smaller anticlinal axis, and between the two a deep trough. The upper measures in E. Glamorgan and Monmouthshire comprise the bituminous coals used for domestic cooking and gas purposes, while the lower measures are those which have been pre-eminent as the smokeless steam coal of S. Wales—the first quality for maritime purposes in the world.

In the centre of Glamorganshire the veins are much more disturbed, and the upper measures are worked in the Rhondda and Ely valleys, as also at Llanelly in Caermarthenshire, where the very highest beds of the whole series are to be found. The middle coal-measures, known as *Pennant Grits* or sandstones, form a marked feature over the whole of the basin, as they almost invariably cap the long narrow ridges of hill which run from the millstone grit table due S. In the N.E. portion of the district they are comparatively worthless, only a few thin veins being found; but they attain greater importance near Swansea, being upwards of 2000 ft. in thickness, and, according to Sir W. Logan, containing in the Town Hill 12 seams of coal.

One of the most interesting features in the basin is the chemical change that takes place in the coal, making enormous differences both in its value and practical uses.

This change is the conversion of bituminous or free-burning coal to anthracite or stone-coal, and is so gradual in its operation that it is difficult to fix the precise spot where it commences. It is first observed to any extent at Rhymney, and gradually increases westward towards Merthyr and the Taff valley. Beyond Hirwain, at the ironworks of Onllwyn, it is so far completed that the coals which at Rhymney were all bituminous are now all anthracitic, and this peculiarity obtains through the Swansea valley to the very extremity of the coal-field. With regard to the cause geologists are not agreed, some considering it to be purely chemical and still in operation, others with more probability regarding it only as a result of past igneous action arising from the proximity of trap rocks to the coal-measures. The chief chemical difference consists in the great increase of carbon—the

bituminous coal of Ebbwvale in the E. of the field containing about 35 per cent., while that of the Swansea valley has 93 per cent. Apart from the value of the various coal-measures to the different ironworks, the seams which are of the greatest commercial importance, are the steam coals of the Aberdare and Rhondda valley, which from their cleanly and smokeless qualities are used in vast quantities by the Admiralty.

The geologist can frequently obtain good fossils of the carboniferous era. Ferns are plentiful in many localities, particularly in the N. crop, while several seams furnish shells (marine or brackish water), and fish remains (vide articles in 'Geologist').

The *Pembrokeshire coal or culm field* is wholly anthracitic and extremely contorted. It would seem that the lateral pressure which acted over the whole of the coal-field came from the S.W., and produced its greatest effect on that portion of the country, gradually weakening as it diverged from the centre. There are some valuable collieries at Bonville's Court, Saundersfoot, and Kilgetty near Tenby, besides some small ones at Nolton in the northern field, which is surrounded on either side by a Silurian and trap rocks.

The iron-ores, which are associated with the coal-beds, are described in Article III.

5. The *Old Red Sandstone* occupies a considerable area, for the most part surrounding the coal-basin on all sides but the S., and comprising a large portion of Breconshire, Monmouthshire, and Herefordshire. This area, however, has been subjected to enormous denudation, for the effects of which we may take as an example the valley of the Usk, in which the softer marls have been worn away, leaving the upper and harder beds of conglomerate comparatively untouched, and standing prominently forward. "Thus the country towards Leominster, Bromyard, and Hereford is chiefly formed of the marl series with its corn-stones, while the Black Mountain heights, such as Pencader, Penalltmawr, &c., and the Vans of Brecon, are crowned by hard sandstones and conglomerates in slightly inclined beds, the remains, no doubt, of those which once covered the marls to a greater extent northward." To the E. of Pontypool the Old Red is interrupted by the Silurian elevation of Usk, which stretches from near Raglan to some few miles below the town of Usk (Rte. 5). On the S. of the coal-field these rocks are visible between Newport and Cardiff, from whence they range westward, passing beneath a higher arch of carboniferous limestone near Cowbridge.

A narrow strip of Old Red is observable at the W. of the coal-field, separating it from the Silurian rocks; and, again, in S. Pembrokeshire, alternating with bands of Silurian and Carboniferous rocks. The lower marls and Cornstones have, to a certain extent, disappeared as they travel westward. In Breconshire and Herefordshire, bands of cornstones are frequently met with, and have proved, especially in the latter county, very productive of Old Red fish remains. The following are the best localities for the geologist:—For Cornstones and Brownstones,

near Abergavenny; the Scyrrid; Pontrilas; Bwlch between Crickhowel and Brecon; the Daren above Crickhowel, where are to be found the equivalents in position of the Dura Den Bed in Fifeshire; the Vans; the Sawdde near Llangadock, where there is a junction with upper Ludlow rocks; between Freshwater and West Angle Bay; Caldy Island and Hook Point, in Pembrokeshire, where the Old Red is seen to overlie the Silurian strata.

6. The greatest portion of S. Wales is occupied by the *Silurian rocks*, which are so characteristic of the country as to have given name to the Silurian system, the most important and perfectly elaborated system of modern geologists.

a. The *Tilestones*, which form the uppermost layer of the whole system, and are a transition between the Silurian and Old Red rocks, are visible "along the whole of the eastern frontier of the Silurian rocks" (particularly from Kington to the Trewern Hills on the Wye), and furnish many beautiful typical fossils. The geologist should not fail to visit the localities of Bradnor Hill near Kington (Rte. 18), and Horeb Chapel in Cwm Dwr, between Treacastle and Llandovery (Rte. 13).

β. The *Ludlow rocks*, Upper and Lower, constitute a large area, extending from Knighton and Presteign in a S.-westerly direction, and, in fact, comprising the greatest portion of the county of Radnor. The upper rocks may be traced along the eastward slopes of Bradnor and Hergest Hills, near Kington, and from thence to the Trewern Hills, near Clyro on the Wye. From thence a narrow prolongation is thrown out into the very heart of Breconshire.

Both Upper and Lower Ludlow are finely exposed in the escarpments of Mynydd Epynt and Bwlch-y-groes, where they rise from underneath the Old Red in a rapid anticlinal flexure at Alt-fawr and Corn-y-fan. Their junction with the Old Red can be well seen at Cwm Dwr, and on the banks of the Sawdde, near Llangadock. From thence to the mouth of the Towey these rocks gradually become a thin band, everywhere surmounted by Old Red. It is remarkable that the middle division, or Aymestry limestone, soon thins out after leaving Ludlow, and in Radnorshire entirely disappears. The ravine of Water-break-it's-neck, near Radnor (Rte. 18), shows good successions from the Wenlock limestone, through the Ludlow rocks up to their junction with the Old Red. They are again visible in S. Pembrokeshire at Lampeter Velfrey, near Narberth, and forming cliffs on the sea-coast at Marloes Bay to the N., and Freshwater to the S. of Milford Haven. The Usk valley of elevation, too, must not be omitted, where the Ludlow rocks rest upon Wenlock limestone, and are very fossiliferous.

The Ludlow beds are developed to a thickness of about 400 feet at Penylan and the village of Rumney, near Cardiff. At Tymawr quarry, near there, the first specimens of fossil wood were found which showed definite woody structure, and the finest specimens of *Pachytheca spherica* ever found are from the same quarry; this is the earliest known fossil fruit. About 200 yards west of Rumney Church a quarry in the Wenlock limestone abounds with beautifully preserved corals,

tinged a delicate pinkish red, the Matrix so red that the Geological Survey mapped them at first as Old Red sandstone. The thickness of the Wenlock beds is here about 550 feet.

γ. The *Wenlock limestone* "thins out entirely in Radnorshire, and is scarcely to be recognised in the counties of Caermarthen, Brecon, and Pembroke; its place being only marked in the cliffs of Marloes Bay, near Milford Haven, by some fossils, and a small quantity of impure limestone immersed in grey and sandy shale." The lower member of this series, the Woolhope limestone, is observed at Corton, near Presteign, to be subordinate to a black shale, which rests on Pentamerus grit. The Wenlock series is a very prominent feature in the Usk valley of elevation.

δ. The *Upper Llandovery Rock* is observed in Radnorshire at Corton, in the form of the Pentamerus bed just alluded to, as also on the western slopes of the hill of Old Radnor, and again to the W. of Builth, resting unconformably on Llandeilo flags. The best spot, by far, for examining these Llandovery rocks is in the tract extending from the river Sawdde to the N.E. of Llandovery, and particularly in the heights of Noeth Grug, where both zones are observed conformable in one united mass, and with clear relations to the superior and inferior strata.

ε. The *Caradoc* or *Bala formation* comprises the vast area of slaty and schistose rocks in the counties of N. Caermarthen and Cardigan, in which occur the lead-mines of Nant-y-Mwyn, and the gold-mines of Gogofau, near Llandovery (Rte. 19). On the l. bank of the Towey, and especially at Cilgwyn Park, a good succession may be seen of Llandeilo flags, surmounted by beds full of Caradoc fossils, and gradually ascending into the Pentamerus beds of the Llandovery rocks. The same rocks are again observed, though to a small extent, in Pembrokeshire, at Lampeter Velfrey, and Sholeshook, near Haverfordwest.

η. The Llandeilo formation plays an important part in the district which extends from Builth to Llandegley and Llandrindod, and again at Llanwrtyd Wells, at all which localities it is abundantly associated with igneous rocks. They are best developed in the neighbourhood of Llandeilo (Rte. 19), where they emerge from beneath the Caradoc series. In Pembrokeshire the beds are not of so calcareous a character as they are in Caermarthenshire: here they are found at Lampeter Velfrey, as also forming a portion of the cliffs at Musselwick Bay near Haverfordwest. The best localities for obtaining fossils are Wellfield, near Builth, Llandeilo, Golden Grove, and Mount Pleasant near Caermarthen.

Below these rocks the scantily fossiliferous beds, the Lingula flags, are observable only at Whitesand Bay, near St. David's Head, in which the *Lingula Davisii* occurs. Here also are small patches of Longmynd, or Cambrian formation. Igneous rocks, though not so abundant as in N. Wales, are to be met with in many districts, as the eruptive rocks of Stanner near Kington (Rte. 18), Carneddau Mountains near Builth, Esgair Davydd, and the hills round Llanwrtyd, the island of Skomer, and portions of the coast of the neighbouring mainland, as well as the

wild picturesque cliffs of St. David's and Strumble Heads. To the geological student touring in S. Wales, Mr. W. S. Symonds' 'Records of the Rocks' will prove an invaluable travelling companion.

III. MANUFACTURES AND PRODUCTS

may be classed under four heads—viz. *Coal, Iron, Copper, and Lead.*

1. **COAL.**—The geological formation of the South Wales coal-field, the arrangement of the measures, and the changes from bituminous to anthracite coal, are described in pages ix–xi; it therefore only remains to give a brief summary of its commercial importance. The value of the coal of the district having apparently been recognised later than that of the ironstone, the principal output of the collieries, for many years, was applied to the manufacture of iron, notably at such centres as the works of Hirwain, Aberdare, Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Rhymney, Tredegar, Sirhowy, Ebbw Vale, and Nantyglo. The extraordinary superiority of the Welsh coal over any other known fuel has, however, been so steadily demonstrated within the last thirty years as to obtain for it an almost complete monopoly for marine purposes, and to turn the attention, not only of the iron producers, but of fresh capitalists to the development of these steam coals.

An idea of the rapid growth of the trade in these coals will be obtained from the following table of shipments from Cardiff, Swansea, and Newport, to foreign parts, in 1877 and 1887, respectively,

	1877.	1887.
Cardiff . . .	3,681,084 tons	7,532,640 tons.
Newport . . .	611,156 „	2,293,276 „
Swansea . . .	653,630 „	869,019 „
	<hr/> 4,945,870	<hr/> 10,694,935

The exports, coastwise, and the vast inland trade by rail have also increased in a corresponding ratio.

The total number of collieries in the district is about 500, and the annual output therefrom about 25,000,000 tons. The valleys supplying, up to the present, the special class of coal, which has thus made S. Wales pre-eminent, are those of Aberdare, Merthyr, Rhondda, Rhymney, Ebbw Vale and Nantyglo; while the recent developments westwards in the Ely, Ogmore, and Garw Valleys prove that the same, or a similar quality, extends in that direction.

The physical features which render the Welsh coal superior to any other are its freedom from smoke, high evaporative power, rapidity in lighting, and small yield of ash, all of which adapt it for the firing of such boilers as are at present used. So long as the supply can be maintained, little effort will probably be made by the invention of suitable boilers to utilize the vast resources of anthracite in the western portion

of the coal field, which, with the exception of a limited quantity exported to France, is in little demand at present. Of late years the small coal of many of the large collieries has, after washing, been converted into coke with a certain admixture of the coking coal from the upper veins, and, in the case of certain of the more bituminous steam coals towards the south of the Rhondda Valley, excellent coke is made of the small coal alone.

2. IRON.—The principal ironworks are situated on or towards the north crops of the coal-basin, or else at a locality, such as Maesteg, where the lower measures are raised near the surface by an anticlinal line, or axis. The perpendicular depth of the coal and iron bearing strata is 11,000 feet in the northern, and 8000 feet in the southern trough. The ironstone is found interstratified with the coal measures, and generally accompanying them, in the form of “pins,” or thin bands, frequently highly coloured with peroxide-layers of greater thickness occurring in rock, and round nodules of ironstone disseminated at unequal distances through beds of shale and rock. These nodules are generally rich in percentage of iron, containing sometimes in the interstices small brilliant crystals and sometimes impressions of plants. The great practical division of the ironstones is into argillaceous or clay ironstones, and carbonaceous or blackband; the constituent substances of the latter being carbonate of iron, carbonaceous matter, alumina, and silica, with a trace of lime. Brown hæmatite iron ore—hydrated sesquioxide of iron—is also found in the mountain limestone of the southern outcrop at Penttyrch, but has been little worked.

It is advisable to give a brief account of the mode of manufacture, although, for particulars, the traveller is referred to Dr. Percy's work on Iron and Steel.

The three materials necessary for the reduction of ore and the production of pig-iron are coal or coke, ironstone or iron ore, and limestone. The coal is usually, though not always, converted into coke by burning in ovens, and in some cases is coked in long heaps in the open air. The ironstone, which may consist of the argillaceous nodules, blackband, hæmatite, or, in fact, any variety, is roasted before it is taken to the furnace, for the purpose of getting rid of the carbonic acid, earthy matter, and impurities necessarily found with it; while the water is evaporated without being decomposed, for were the raw iron ore to be subjected to the intense heat of the furnace, the water and acid would be instantly decomposed, the oxygen would unite with the iron, and part of it would oxygenate the sulphur, which would have the effect of producing iron quite unworkable from the great quantity of oxygen in combination. Like the coking of coal, this roasting causes the mass to lose greatly in weight, commonly about 35 per cent.

Of late years the native argillaceous ironstone and blackband of the south Wales coal field has been superseded by the gradual adoption of the brown hæmatite iron ores of Spain, which, from about the year 1872, have been imported in vast quantities to Newport and Cardiff and applied to all the iron-works of the district. The richness and cheap-

ness of these, as compared with that of the local iron-stones and the iron ore of Dean Forest, have led to the almost entire closing of the mines of the latter, and the exclusive use of Spanish ore and some of the richer red hæmatite ores of Cumberland. Over 1,000,000 tons of Spanish ore are imported annually to the ports of Cardiff and Newport alone.

The ore and the coke being thus fully prepared, are taken to the top of the furnace, into which they are thrown in certain "charges" or proportions, together with one of limestone, the object being to present to the metal of the ore sufficient fuel, at a great heat, to take up the oxygen, and also that the limestone may serve as a flux to facilitate the separation by uniting with the earthy portions of the ore.

The furnace is a large cupola-shaped building about sixty-five feet high, with openings at the top and bottom, the latter of which is called the hearth or fireplace, and the former the tunnel-head. The interior, though hollow, is not even all the way up, but contracts a little above the hearth and again near the top, the greatest width being termed "the boshes." The furnace is kept alive by the blast, blown in at a certain temperature by a steam-engine, which finds admittance at the hearth by means of tubes or pipes called "tuyères." The charge is put in at the top and exposed to the action of the fire for eight hours, at the end of which time the metal is reduced and collected into a dam or reservoir at the bottom of the furnace.

As soon as it rises to the level of the dam an opening is made, and the molten iron runs out in a fiery jubilee, lighting up the nooks and crannies of the casting-yard with wonderful effects that only a Rembrandt could paint. Before it is tapped, channels or moulds of sand are made for it to run into, and when cold, it is taken up under the well-known name of "pigs," the principal channel being dignified with the name of the "sow." The pig or cast-iron is in the state of a carburet of iron; the ore having been an oxide, the hydrogen and carbonic oxide formed during the progress of combustion remove the oxygen from the ore, which thus becomes carburetted.

The slag or scorixæ which have accumulated during the reduction are allowed to flow into a tram, from which they are emptied when cold in square vitreous-looking masses, giving the place in which they are deposited the aspect of a burnt-out volcano. Even this refuse, however, has been turned to account, for it is used for the foundation and metaling of roads, &c.; indeed an association called the Patent Slag Company was formed (though it was not a commercial success) for working it up into articles of domestic use, such as bottles, tables, &c. At many works the gases escape from the top of the furnace, causing, by their combustion, a magnificent body of flame; but in others the top of the furnace is closed by an appliance known as the cup and cone, and the waste gases conducted to the boilers (and also used in heating the air prior to its entering the furnace) of the blast engine, thus effecting a double economy.

An important item in the smelting of iron is the blast, which may

used in two ways—with hot or cold air. Until 1830 the cold blast was in universal employment, but since then the former has gained ground, for the reason that a cold current of air passed into the furnace, the great pressure cools the fuel below the temperature necessary to effect the union of the carbon of the fuel with the oxygen of the air; but the hot air is forced upon it in a condition favourable to its uniting immediately, causing instant and vivid combustion. The usual temperature of the hot blast ranges from 1000° to 1400° Fahr. Cast iron is a carburet of iron, which, when wrought, is decarburetted, becoming more tenacious, and having the property of welding at a great heat. This process, however, is become almost, if not entirely, obsolete. Since the perfection of the Bessemer process, and the production at such cheap rates of steel rails, a revolution in the iron trade set in, and within the last 15 years all the principal iron-works of the district have been remodelled and applied to the manufacture of steel. The price of steel rails soon became less than those of iron, and at the present time practically no others are used.

The production of steel depends upon the reduction in the proportion of carbon in cast iron to the requisite point. This is effected under the Bessemer process by conveying molten cast iron into a large vessel lined with fire-clay, or other refractory substance, and which is called the "Bessemer Converter," capable of holding about 10 tons. By means of tuyères, a blast of atmospheric air is passed through this molten metal, the chemical effect of which is to drive off the carbon contained in the mass. The proper proportion of carbon required is then supplied in the form of spiegeleisen, a special variety of cast iron containing a large proportion of carbon as well as manganese, which latter is also an important ingredient in the manufacture of steel. The spiegeleisen is introduced in a molten state, and as soon as it is thoroughly diffused, the converter is tilted, and the molten metal poured into a ladle, from which it is again cast into sand-moulds in the form of steel ingots.

The following table will show the number and make of the furnaces in South Wales in 1740:—

Breconshire . . .	2 ; making 600 tons.
Glamorganshire . . .	2 ; " 400 "
Caermarthenshire . . .	1 ; " 100 "
Monmouthshire . . .	2 ; " 900 "
	<hr/>
	2000

As long as charcoal was used for smelting, there was no occasion for any great blast power; consequently the earliest means in use was a bellows worked by hand or water. But when the coal became available, the blast was obliged to be increased, the earliest contrivance being a forcing-pump or a steam-engine. The number of coal furnaces then gradually increased, so that in 1788 the number of tons of iron turned out in Breconshire and Glamorganshire was 8200. In 1790 the large

and powerful engines made by Watt came into requisition, whereupon the trade increased, and the number of furnaces amounted in 1796 to 25, and in 1806 to 39, producing 78,000 tons per annum.

During the past century, and especially since the advent of railways, and the general application of steam-power to every branch of industry, the iron trade of South Wales has naturally made enormous strides, culminating, as above stated, in the larger make of steel, the following being an approximate list of the converters in work in the district with capacities ranging from 6 to 10 tons each:—

Cyfarthfa	.	.	.	.	2
Blaenavon	.	.	.	.	2
Dowlais	.	.	.	.	6
Ebbw Vale	.	.	.	.	6
Rhymney	.	.	.	.	5
Tredegar	.	.	.	.	2
					<hr/>
					23

The number of blast furnaces in operation and the total make of pig iron yearly in the South Wales district is shown approximately in the following table:—

	Furnaces in blast.	Iron ore used.	Pig iron made.	Coal used.
Glamorganshire.	20	660,000	350,000	650,000
Monmouthshire.	21	800,000	440,000	900,000
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		41	1,460,000	790,000 1,550,000

3. COPPER.—The copper trade of S. Wales is far from being of the same importance as the iron trade, which is extended over the whole coal-field, while the former is limited to a small portion of it. There is also this difference, that iron is a produce of the district in which it is worked, whereas the copper has to be brought to this country to be smelted, partly from Cornwall, partly from Chili, Valparaiso, and Australia. The principal works are in the neighbourhood of Swansea, Neath, Aberavon, and Llanelly, though the ore is mostly sold at the former town at public “ticketings.” Of late years the total yearly quantity of copper ore, regulus, and old copper for re-manufacture, imported into the S. Wales ports is over 100,000 tons. The process of preparing the copper does not present the bustle and activity, nor the glare and brilliancy, of an iron-work. The visitor who glides over the bridge over the Tawe at Llandore will be at once struck with the peculiarly melancholy, lurid scene that presents itself whenever the thick vapours roll away.

The ore is first of all put into a reverberatory furnace to be calcined and exposed to an intense heat, in order to disengage the sulphur and other volatile impurities. The calcined and cooled ore is then transferred to a second furnace, in which the metallic oxides and earthy matters float on the surface of the metal, and are skimmed off as slag

the melted copper being allowed to flow off into a pit of water, where it becomes granulated in cooling. Of such value is the metal considered, that even the slag is taken back to the yard and carefully broken up to see if any particles of copper are left behind; if this is the case, it is again melted. As a great deal of sulphur is still to be found in the metal, it is again melted in a third and fourth furnace, and then run into pigs, which are taken to the roasting furnace; the sulphur, which hitherto has been retained in just sufficient quantities to protect the metal from oxidization, being now eliminated as rapidly as possible. The last process is refining, after which the copper is ready for the market in any shape that may be required. The smoke and vapour which is disengaged from these works is of the most noxious and disagreeable kind, and apparently most pernicious to vegetation, as the traveller cannot but notice in looking up the Vale of Evesham. It does not, however, appear to affect human life or health, as the workmen and those who dwell in the manufactories appear to enjoy health in a remarkable manner. The chemical constituents of the vapour are sulphurous acid, which is most abundant and penetrating, sulphuric acid, arsenic, both in the metallic form and as arsenious acid, and stannic compounds, perhaps in the shape of hydrofluoric acid.

The copper-smelting trade (putting aside all conjectures as to Roman workings, &c.) was first begun in Cornwall in 1670, but the absence of coal, and the expense of bringing it thither, soon caused the transferring of the works to Clifton near Bristol. A Mr. Coster was part owner and manager of this establishment, as also of one at Redbrook near the Wye. Subsequently the trade was removed to Aberavon, where it still exists, as it has done at Swansea, from an early part of the last century.

4. **LEAD.**—The principal mines where this valuable ore is worked are in the slaty Lower Silurian rocks in Caermarthenshire and Cardiganshire. Traces of lead, and sometimes remains of old workings, are found also in the southern carboniferous limestone-range of the coal-field; but little or none is obtained at present. Tokens of mining are apparent everywhere near Aberystwyth, particularly on the road to Llynlimmon and near the Devil's Bridge.

5. **PATENT FUEL.**—There is also a large manufacture of patent fuel, which is principally carried on at Swansea and Cardiff. It consists of the preparation of culm and tar, compressed by machinery into the form of a brick, and is largely used for shipping purposes. About 500,000 tons are yearly exported from Swansea and Cardiff.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS.

To meet the requirements of the manufacturing districts, of late years a large number of railways and canals have been constructed, and

Wales is now intersected by the former as copiously as any English county. The canals, which in the early part of the century were almost the only means of conveying the traffic of the manufacturing

districts, are now almost entirely superseded by the railways and docks.

The rlys. consist of—1. The trunk line of the Great Western Co. between Gloucester and Milford Haven (Rtes. 1 and 2), which is joined by (2) the Hereford, Ross, and Gloucester (Rte. 3). 3. The Forest of Dean Rly. at Awre. 4. The Bristol and South Wales branch of the G. W. R. viâ the Severn Tunnel (Rte. 1). 5. The Great Western narrow-gauge from Hereford to Newport, now considerably shortened betwixt Pontypool and Newport by an improved rte. viâ Caerleon (Rte. 4). 6. The Monmouthshire lines to Ebbw Vale, Nantyglo (Rte. 7), and Blaenafon (Rte. 6). 7. The Sirhowy and Tredegar line (Rte. 8). 8. The Newport, Dowlais, and Brecon (Rte. 9). 9. The Taff Vale (Rte. 15). 10. The Rhymney line (Rte. 14). 11. The Llynfi Valley at Bridgend and to Porthcawl (Rte. 1). 12. The Great Western by the Vale of Neath from Pontypool Road to Neath (Rte. 10). 13. The Neath and Brecon (Rte. 13). 14. The Swansea Valley (Rte. 20). 15. The Central Wales from Craven Arms to Swansea and Caermarthen (Rte. 19). 16. The Oystermouth rly. (Rte. 2). 17. The Llanelly rly. to Llandovery (Rte. 21). 17. The Caermarthen and Cardigan as far as Llandyssil and the Whitland and Cardigan (Rte. 23). 18. Manchester and Milford (Rte. 22). 19. Tenby and Pembroke (Rte. 24). In addition to these there are—20. The Hereford, Hay, and Brecon (Rte. 16); the Kingston and Eardisley, connecting the Kingston and Leominster rly. with the H. H. & B., and leading to an extension line from Kingston to New Radnor, as well as to a branch from Titley to Presteign. 21. The Mid-Wales (Rte. 17), which, with the Central Wales, places South Wales in connection with the north of England; and 22. The Aber-gavenny and Merthyr (Rte. 11). Both the great systems of the London and North-Western and the Great Western thus have access to the Welsh works, collieries, and shipping ports, and places them in direct communication with the principal markets.

V. ANTIQUARIAN VIEW.

Of the many interesting antiquities with which South Wales abounds, the most striking and characteristic are those primeval remains of the early inhabitants, such as Cromlechs and Inscribed Stones. As in many parts of Devon and Cornwall, traces of the Celt are frequently evident, and sometimes in a very perfect state. The *stone circles* are occasionally to be found, though seldom of any great size. They consist of a number of stones disposed around a central pillar, in a ring of varying size, and were doubtless connected with the rude worship of the early inhabitants. Good examples are at Carn Llechart in the Swansea Valley, on Cefn Bryn, Gower, the Preseley mountains, at Bedd Taliesin near Aberystwyth, and on the mountain above Trecastle, &c.

Cromlechs are numerous, although few are very perfect, owing to the destructive tendencies of the ignorant farmers, who have frequently

oken up the slabs to serve for wall-copings or gate-posts. The cromlech was formerly thought to be used in the sacrificial rites of the druidic priests, but it is now generally allowed that they were sepulchral monuments, designed to mark the resting-place of some great warrior or chieftain. The greatest number of cromlechs, as well as those in the best preservation, are met with in Pembrokeshire, which, perhaps from its comparative isolation, abounds more than any other part of South Wales in primeval remains. The principal ones in this county are Newport, Llech-y-Drybedd on Tre-icert farm near Nevern, Centre-Evan, Longhouse near Trevine, Mathry, St. Nicholas, Llanwnda, Mellyls, and Ffynondruidian, the last four in the peninsula of Strumble Head (Rte. 25). There are others at St. Nicholas, Dyffryn, in Glamorganshire (Rte. 1), St. Lythans, on the same estate, Dolwilym, near Llanboidy in the W. of Caermarthenshire, besides Arthur's Stone (near Llyn Bryn, Gower (Rte. 2); in Herefordshire, near Moccas Court (Rte. 16); and in Monmouthshire, at Newchurch, between Caerwent and Usk. In this category may be included the Buckstone* near Monmouth (Rte. 5), which, though no cromlech, but a natural curiosity, has an object of high veneration. Another Rocking-stone, the Maen ywylf, in Glamorganshire, near Ponty-y-pridd, is by tradition reckoned druidical.

The "*Maen-hir*" (plural, *meini-hirion*), or upright stones, are very common all over South Wales. Whether they were used to denote burial-places, or scenes of battle, or some particular event, does not appear clear; the supposition that they were placed as boundaries appears improbable, as they are commonly found on the most barren ridges of hills. In similar localities the *cairns* or "*carneddau*" are met with, studding the summits of the mountains with their grey caps of stones. The cairns and the tumulus or "barrow" undoubtedly mark the places of interment of warriors or chiefs, whose burying-places were thus rudely perpetuated to posterity. There are several tumuli on the Preseley hills, and also on the Ridgeway between Penby and Pembroke. Most of the Welsh tumuli have at different times been opened and found to contain a "*Kistvaen*" or stone chest, which is an urn filled with ashes.

South Wales is particularly rich in *inscribed stones*, which were used to denote not only the place of interment, but also the name of the buried person. In some cases, too, sculpture has been added to the name. They date from the Roman era, and continued in use for some time subsequent to it. The antiquary who is interested in inscribed stones and crosses should consult the papers of Mr. Westwood in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*.*

The following are the principal stones worth visiting. In Breconshire, the Maen Llia on the Brecon and Ystradfellte road (Rte. 10), and near it the sculptured stone of Dervacus or Maen Madoc; the Maen-y-orwynion or Maiden Stone, at the Gaer near Brecon (Rte. 13); the sculptured stone at Llandeivailog near Brecon; in Llanspyddid church-

*See Nicholls' '*Forest of Dean*,'—a very instructive little book, by a late worthy clergyman.

yard; at Llanynis near Builth; in the wall of Defynnock church in the wall of Ystradgunlais church (Rte. 20); the Victorinus Stone at Bwlch; in Glanusk Park; the Catacus Stone in Cwmdu church wall those of Peregrinus and Valens at Tretower; and the Turpilian Stone at Crickhowel (Rte. 12). In Glamorganshire are the stones on the Gellygaer Mountain near Merthyr Tydfil; that of Arthen in Merthyr church wall (Rte. 15); the Ogham Stone at Kenfig (Rte. 1); and the Brancyf Stone at Baglan church near Port Talbot; besides some others in the vicinity of Aberafon. In Cardiganshire—in Llanarth church near Aberaeron (Rte. 25), and the Virgin's Stone near Lampeter. In Caermarthenshire—the Eidon Stone at Golden Grove. Pembrokeshire—a Caldŷ Island, at Cilgerran church, and that of Sagrannus at St. Dogmael's Priory. In connection with them may be mentioned the wheel sculptured *crosses* at Margam Abbey and Llântwit churchyard Glamorganshire. Of a different type, but of a much more beautiful kind, are the slender elevated crosses in St. Donat's, Carew, and Nevern churchyards.

British roads and boundaries are few, although it is very probable that many of the Roman roads followed the course of the British track ways. The Via Flandrica or Fford Fleming is the best defined example, extending from near Roch Castle to the village of Ambleston in Pembrokeshire. Offa's Dyke is in many places very perfect, and can be well examined in the neighbourhood of Knighton, and from thence by Kington to Bridge Sollars on the Wye. It is unlikely that it served any other purpose than a line of demarcation.

Many of the Roman stations of South Wales have had their position definitely fixed, while some are still rather conjectural.

Blestium	was Monmouth. (?)	Bullæum	was Builth.
Burrium	„ Usk.	Leucarum	„ Llonghor.
Gobannium	„ Abergavenny.	Maridunum	„ Caermarthen.
Magna	„ Kenchester.	Menapia	„ St. David's.
Tibia Amnis	„ Cardiff. (?)	Loventium	„ Llanio, nr. Tregaron.
Bannium	„ Gaer, near Brecon.	Ad Vicesimum	„ near Ambleston.
Nidum	„ Neath.	Isca Silurum	„ Caerleon.
Bovium	„ Cowbridge (?)	Venta Silurum	„ Caerwent.

There were also Roman stations at Llanfair-y-bryn, near Llandovery and Caerfagu, near Rhayader. Traces of the Via Julia, which ran between Aqua Solis (Bath) and Menapia, are visible at Caerwen Caerleon, near Tredegar Park, Newport, and in Pembrokeshire, between Menapia and Roche Castle. The actual point of crossing the Bristol Channel has always been a source of dispute amongst antiquaries, but the probability is that it was close to the New Passage and at Caldecott Pier, where it was protected by the camp at Sudbrook. The Sarn Helen or Sarn Lleon, connected Nidum with Bannium, the station at Llanfair-y-bryn, Loventium, and eventually Deva (Chester). It can be traced on the hills above Rheola, in the Vale of Neath, and from thence to the Maen Llia near Ystradfellte; again at Llanfair-y-bryn.

and crossing the hills near Lampeter to Llanio. A road is also visible from Caerfagu up the vale of the Clywedog to Abbey-cwm-hir, and from hence through the pass of Bwlch-y-sarnau to Caersws. The Roman towns of Caerleon and Caerwent are described in Rte. 1, and a mine of information about them is to be found in Mr. J. C. Lee's '*Isca Silurum.*' Traces of roads are also to be found at Cayo, and from thence to the Gogofau mines, which, it is well known, were worked by the Romans for gold (Rte. 19).

Camps are numerous in every part of the country, for there is scarcely a height that does not possess some tokens of defence or intrenchment, showing how fiercely and repeatedly the ground was disputed inch by inch. The following are the principal camps that may be examined: Monmouthshire—Sudbrook near Chepstow, Coed-y-Bunedd, Gaer Fawr, and others near Usk; in Herefordshire—Caer Caradoc, Gaer, Wapley Hill, Croft Ambury, and Coxwall Knoll, in the neighbourhood of Knighton and Kington; Dinedor, Kenchester, and Eaton Bishop near Hereford, Doward near Monmouth, and Mouse Castle near Hay; Breconshire—Craig Hywel on the Table Mountain, Crickhowel, Miarth near Glanusk, Slwch near Brecon; in Caermarthenshire—at Carn Goch near Llandeilo; in Glamorganshire—Harding Down (very perfect) in Gower; and in Pembrokeshire, at St. David's Head and Dinas Head. The British and Roman forts at Penlan, close to St. David's, should also be visited.

The *Mediæval* remains are numerous, though, perhaps, not so much so as might be expected, considering the extent of the country. As they are described more or less in the respective routes, it will be sufficient here to show, under general headings, the various kinds of antiquarian buildings. They may be divided into—

1. Military—such as the *Castles* of Pembroke, Cilgerran, Llawhwydden, Llanstephan, Kidwelly, Aberystwyth, Chepstow, Newport, Caldecot, Raglan, White Castle, Caerphilly, &c., with a long list of others in more or less preservation. Some of them, however, such as Manorbeer, must be looked upon more in the light of a castle residence than as an exclusively military building.

2. Monastic—such as Tintern, Monkton, St. Dogmael's, Strata Florida, Ewenny, Neath, Llanthony, and Talley abbeys.

3. Ruined chapels—as St. Gowan's, St. Tecla's, the Nun's, and St. Justinian's chapel near St. David's.

4. Domestic remains—*a.* Ecclesiastical, as Moynes Court, Lamphey, St. David's Palace, Llanddew. *β.* Secular, as St. Fagan's, Fonmon, St. Donat's Llantwit Town-hall, Derwydd, Devannor, Porthaml, Gwernyfedd, Porthmawr, and Court Bryn-y-Beirdd, &c.

5. Ecclesiastical—as Llandaff, St. David's, and Hereford Cathedrals.

6. Parochial.—The churches in South Wales are barren of interest, considering the number of them; and although isolated cases happen where the parish church affords evidence of former grandeur, yet it is

as a whole that this class of edifice will be found most interesting to the student. A strong family likeness runs through the churches of different portions of the country, as in Monmouthshire, where the Somersetshire type most prevails; or in Gower and Pembrokeshire, which are remarkable for their rude military buildings. It has been remarked by Mr. Freeman that twelve out of the sixteen churches of Gower have towers evidently built for defence. The churches best worth the attention of the tourist are—

Monmouthshire.

- *1. St. Woollos, Newport.
- 1. Chepstow.
- 1. Mathern.
- 1. Magor.
- 1. Christ Church.
- 1. Caldecot.
- 1. Caerwent.
- 12. Abergavenny.
- 4. Grosmont.
- 3. St. Thomas, Monmouth.
- 5. Mitchel Troy.
- 5. Usk.

Caermarthenshire.

- 19. Llandeilo.
- 2. Caermarthen (St. Peter's).
- 2. Kidwelly.

Radnorshire.

- 19. Pilleth.
- 18. Presteign.

Cardiganshire.

- 18. Llanbadarn Vawr.
- 22. Llanddewi Brefi.
- 23. Cardigan.

Herefordshire.

- 4. Kilpeck.
- 16. Madley.
- 18. Kington.

Breconshire.

- 12. Crickhowel.
- 12. Partrishow.
- 12. Tal-y-llyn.
- 12. Brecon.
- St. Mary's.
- Christ's College.
- Priory.

Glamorganshire.

- 1. Lantwit.
- 1. St. Donat's.
- 1. St. Bride's.
- 1. Coychurch.
- 1. Coity.
- 1. Ewenny.
- 1. Newton.
- 2. Swansea.
- 2. Ilston.
- 2. Llangenydd.

Pembrokeshire.

- 24. Tenby.
- 24. Pembroke.
- 24. Gurfreston.
- 24. Carew.
- 24. Penally.
- 24. Manorbier.
- 24. Hodgeston.
- 24. Cheriton.
- 1. Haverfordwest.
- 24. Llawhawden.
- 25. Nevern.
- 23. Cilgerran.

VI. SOCIAL VIEW.

A glance at the map, or a very short consideration of the physical features of South Wales, will make it obvious that, as regards climate, agriculture, &c., many variations must be met with. Even in the same

* The numbers denotes the Routes.

county, and often in a very small area, surprising differences of temperature exists; the high grounds and mountain-ranges presenting the appearance of severe winter, while the sheltered lowlands along the coast are luxuriating in a mild and spring-like atmosphere. Indeed in some districts, as South Pembrokeshire, the climate is seldom rigorous, even in the depth of winter—evidence of which is seen at Stackpole Court, where plants, which require in other parts of England the protection of a greenhouse, flourish well in the open air. It is this fortunate circumstance that makes Tenby such a valuable place of winter residence for the invalid. The agricultural products of the country are of course to a great extent influenced by its external features, although the science of farming has immensely improved within the last twenty years, and done much to remedy the natural disadvantages of the soil. Agricultural associations have been formed in almost every county; and the efforts of the large landowners to better not only the condition of the soil, but the social position of their tenants and labourers, have met with great success. The richest and best lands are generally to be met with in the alluvial valleys of the large rivers, as the Usk, Wye, Towy, Teifi, &c. The valley of the Usk may be said to be the most fertile, and to produce some of the finest crops. The lands on the slopes of the hills, and in the smaller tributary valleys, are of course more backward and less prolific; the hills themselves, though useless for produce, being very valuable for sheepwalks. Immense flocks of sheep, as well as large numbers of horses and ponies, are pastured on them, forming, in the mountain-regions of Cardiganshire and Caermarthenshire, the principal resource of the farmer. The vast population which occupies the mineral districts, offers a never-failing market for the farmers for many miles round; those who are near enough supplying the more immediate agricultural produce, while those of Cardiganshire traverse the country with their light carts filled with salt butter and bacon. Until lately the mining population was a great deal too busy in the bowels of the earth to think of what might be done on the surface; but within the last few years a great saving must have been effected by the enclosure of large quantities of waste land, on which good though rather late crops are grown. Even Merthyr, smoke-blackened and coal-grimed as it is, possesses its Agricultural and Horticultural Association, the effects of which have been in many instances to cover the desolate-looking “tips” and rubbish-heaps with rows of potatoes or cabbages. The character of the mining section of the Welsh population has wonderfully improved in recent years, which must be a source of congratulation to those who remember the lawlessness and ignorance which characterised Chartism, and the fearful riots to which it gave birth. Of course, where the amount of labour is so enormous, misunderstandings will often arise, which, if not adjusted, cause strikes and bitter feelings between master and man; but even these latter, unfortunate as they are, are seldom marked by appeals to physical force. This improvement must be ascribed principally to education and the force of public opinion, which amongst this class of people is

a powerful motive. It must be confessed that Dissenters have been the principal agents in humanizing and softening the mass; the Church of Wales having been, for many years, deplorably backward in seeking her flocks. But now throughout the whole of the country a very great change is apparent: the number of churches and schools has very much increased both in the dioceses of Llandaff and St. David's, and a more earnest spirit is apparent both amongst clergy and laymen. The improved tone which has grown up so rapidly has also, to a great extent, reached the large employers of labour, who indeed are the responsible parties for bringing together such vast masses of people; but while noble examples of liberality can be quoted, there are still some ironmasters who are far from being imbued with care for the requirements of the men that they employ. Serious crime is a rare thing in South Wales, particularly in the agricultural districts; and even in the manufacturing towns, when we come to consider that the population is by no means all Welsh, but includes large numbers of persons from Somersetshire, Wiltshire, Ireland, &c., the judicial courts are remarkable for their freedom from grave offences. It would be well if the seaport towns could say the same, though in their favour it should be urged that, apart from the usual mixed and floating population of a seaport, there is a large influx of foreign sailors.

The Welsh are a kindly, generous, and impulsive race, often gifted with a lively imagination and poetic temperament. Associated with these is a strong love of music, the cultivation of which in many districts is and has long been carried to a surprising pitch. Geraldus Cambrensis says of them: "They do not sing in unison, like the inhabitants of other countries, but in different parts; so that in a company of singers, which one frequently meets with in Wales, as many different parts are heard as there are performers, who at length unite with organic melody in one consonance. . . . In the northern parts of Britain beyond the Humber, and on the borders of York, the inhabitants use in singing the same kind of symphonious harmony but with less variety, singing only in two parts. . . . Neither of the two nations has acquired this peculiar property by art, but by long habit, which has rendered it familiar and natural; and the practice is now so firmly rooted in them that it is unusual to hear a simple and single melody well sung. Their children from their infancy sing in the same manner." Nobody can hear the national Welsh airs, such as 'Ar hyd y nos,' 'The March of the Men of Harlech,' and 'Llwyn On,' without being struck with their great originality or pathos. In many parts of the principality, meetings or congresses of Welshmen, called *Eisteddfodau* or *Cymrygyddion*,* are occasionally held, at which prizes are offered for the best performances on the harp, or the best piece of poetry. The principal object of these meetings is to keep up the Welsh literature, which otherwise would be in some danger of becoming extinct; whether they really have any such results seems questionable, though at least one book of European reputation

* Pronounced Cumruguthion.

(Stephens' 'Literature of the Kymry') has been produced under their auspices in the present generation; but at all events they serve as useful fields for local genius, and also for preserving the germ of nationality which is such a distinguishing feature in Welsh character. Travellers should resort to these meetings, where they will hear good Welsh music, and see traits of Welsh character.

In South Wales the use of the English language is certainly growing, to the detriment of the Welsh, but the process is a very slow one, and there are many powerful counteracting influences. The publication and diffusion of books, magazines, and newspapers in Welsh has enormously increased. Seventeen weekly newspapers are published in Welsh, with a total circulation of 120,000; and one monthly magazine has reached a circulation of 37,760. The total circulation of magazines in Welsh exceeds 150,000 a month. Of books published in Welsh the majority are translations or collections of sermons, but there are signs of a revival of original literature, and several novels, said to be of remarkable merit, have lately appeared. There is no doubt that the recent establishment of three university colleges in Wales has greatly stimulated the intellectual life of the people. In addition to the liberal education which they themselves offer at the very lowest terms, they have opened a way to Oxford and Cambridge of which scholars of the humblest social rank, but of rare gifts, have eagerly availed themselves. With regard to the question of language, it may be added that the services in 2853 out of 3571 chapels of the four leading Nonconformist denominations in Wales are conducted entirely in Welsh. There are not very many districts where the tourist will not be able to make himself understood, except perhaps in the remote and hilly portions of Caermarthenshire and Cardiganshire—districts where the red flannel gown and the high-peaked hat may even now be seen, and where the perplexing answer of "*dim Saesoneg*" as frequently as not is given in answer to the stranger. In the border counties English is universally spoken as well as Welsh, which is the case also throughout the mineral basin, where most of the children are able to speak the two languages. South Pembrokeshire, however, and the peninsula of Gower, are almost exclusively and wholly English, not only in dialect and expression, but in the very names of the villages. This peculiarity is owing to the colonization of the former, in the 12th century, by the Flemings, and of the latter from Somersetshire; and the immigrants have handed down, from generation to generation, characteristics which have never yet been destroyed or effaced by contact with the Welsh.

Many old customs and superstitions have become obsolete within the last twenty years, in consequence of increased education and facilities of intercommunication with the rest of the country.

We may mention the "*Plygain*," *i.e.*, "the return of morn," "the dawn," the "early light," which was formerly very common in some of the churches of the Principality (particularly that of Crickhowel) on Christmas morning, and is still carried on at Llanover, near Abergavenny, and at Cadoxton, near Neath. At six o'clock the church was

brilliantly illuminated, while Christmas carols were sung. It is almost a pity that a custom so innocent and so pleasing should have fallen into disuse.

A very pretty habit was formerly prevalent at Tenby on New-year's morning, when children knocked at the doors, and, having obtained admittance, sprinkled the articles of furniture with water, at the same time singing the following quaint verses:—

"Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with this happy new year.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine,
With seven bright gold wires and bugles that do shine.
Sing reign of fair maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the west door, and turn the old year go.
Sing reign of fair maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the east door, and let the new year in."*

Of all the Welsh superstitions, that of the fairies was for long most rooted and wide-spread. Glamorganshire appears to have been the head-quarters of this favourite idea; and many are the stories and legends of the "little men in green" devoutly believed by many a peasant. The same belief obtains in Monmouthshire also.

The Vale of Neath in particular was tenanted by fairies; and there are doubtless many living in the vale now who would be loth to trust themselves in certain spots at night-time, for fear of intruding upon their haunts.

The Welsh notion of fairies is, that they are the souls of persons who were not good enough to enter Heaven, nor bad enough to be sent to Pandemonium. They therefore remain on the earth, taking a benevolent interest in good actions, and equally disliking anything mean or underhand.

VII. GLOSSARY OF WELSH WORDS as occurring in the construction of Welsh Names.

<i>Aber</i> , the fall of a lesser water into a greater, a confluence.	<i>Bettws</i> , a station, a place between hill and vale.
<i>Afon</i> , river.	<i>Blaen</i> , an end, point, the head of a vale.
<i>Aeron</i> , fruits, brightness.	<i>Bôd</i> , an abode, dwelling.
<i>Al</i> , power, very, most.	<i>Braich</i> , arm.
<i>Allt</i> , a woody cliff.	<i>Brig</i> , summit.
<i>Ar</i> , upon, bordering on.	<i>Bron</i> , breast, a slope of a hill.
<i>Aran</i> , a high place, an alp.	<i>Bryn</i> , a mount, hill.
<i>Bach</i> and <i>Bychan</i> , little; <i>Fach</i> and <i>Fychan</i> .	<i>Bu</i> , an ox.
<i>Ban</i> , lofty; pl. <i>Banau</i> , eminences.	<i>Bwlch</i> , a defile, pass.
<i>Bedd</i> , a grave.	<i>Cûd</i> , host, battle.

* The tourist who is interested in old local customs, will find those of Tenby described at length in an interesting little book published by Mr. Mason, the librarian.

Cader, chair, stronghold.
Cae, field.
Caer, a fort, city.
Centref, a division of a county, Hundred.
Capel, chapel.
Carreg, stone.
Carn, heap of stones.
Carnedd, ditto; pl. *carneddau*.
Castell, fortress.
Cefn, back, ridge.
Cil, a retreat; pl. *ciliau*.
Clawdd, dyke, hedge.
Clogwyn, precipice.
Coch, red.
Coed, a wood.
Cors, a bog.
Craig, rock; pl. *creigiau*.
Croes, a cross, a turn.
Crug, a mound.
Cwm, a dingle.
Cymmer, a confluence.
Dau, two.
Dê, south.
Dol, a meadow.
Dinas, a city or fortified post.
Drws, a door, a pass.
Du, black.
Dwr, water.
Dyffryn, a valley.
Eglwys, church.
Epynt, an ascent.
Erw, acre.
Esgair, long ridge.
Fach and *Fychan*, vid. *Buch*.
Fawr, vid. *Mawr*.
Ffin, limit.
Ffordd, passage.
Ffynnon, a well.
Flur, bright hue.
Gaer, same as *Caer*.
Gallt, vid. *Allt*.
Garth, a buttress hill, a cape.
Gelli, grove.
Glan, a shore, brink.
Glâs, blue, green.
Glyn, a glen.
Gwaelod, the bottom.
Gwaen, a plain.
Gwern, a watery meadow.
Gwydd, wood.
Gwyn, white, fair.
Hafod, a summer residence.

Hên, old.
Heol, a street.
Hir, long.
Is or *Ys*, lower.
Isaf, lowest; *Uchaf*, highest.
Llan, an enclosure, churchyard, and hence generally used for the church itself.
Llech, a flat stone.
Lluest, encampment.
Llwyd, grey, hoary.
Llwyn, wood, copse.
Llyn, lake.
Llyr, water, the sea.
Llys, a palace.
Maen, stone.
Maes, field.
Mall, bad, rotten.
Mawr, same as *Fawr*, great.
Melin, mill.
Moel, bald, same as *Foel*.
Monad, isolated situation.
Morfa, sea-marsh.
Mynach, monk.
Mynydd, mountain.
Nant, brook.
Neuadd, a hall.
Newydd, new.
Or, edge, side, rim.
Pant, hollow.
Pen, head, top.
Pen-maen, the stone end.
Pentref, village, suburb.
Pistyll, a cataract.
Plas, hall, place.
Pont, bridge.
Porth, gate.
Pwll, ditch, pool.
Rhayader, fall, cataract.
Rhiw, ascent.
Rhôs, a moist plain.
Rhudd, purple.
Rhyd, ford.
Sarn, causeway.
Tafarn, tavern.
Tal, the front, head, tall.
Turn, spreading.
Tir, earth, land.
Tomen, mound.
Traeth, a sandy beach.
Tre, *Trêf*, house, a small town.
Tri, three.
Troed, foot of a hill.

Trwyn, nose.

Twlch, knoll.

Tŵr, tower.

Ty, house, mansion; pl. *Tai*.

Tŷchaf, highest; see *Isaf*.

Y, the.

Ym, in, by.

Yn, into.

Ynys, island.

Yspytty (hospitium), a place of refreshment.

Ystrad, a vale.

Ystwith, flexible.

The traveller who wishes to learn the Welsh language is recommended to study Spurrell's Grammar and Dictionary, as being the most easy and concise.

VIII. POINTS OF INTEREST FOR THE GEOLOGIST.

Penârth Head, near *Cardiff*, for Triassic marls overlaid by Rhætic or Penarth beds and Lias. Rhætic beds.

Barry Island.

Southerndown, Lias limestone resting on upturned Carboniferous limestone.

Llandaff, Permian, and Drift of the *Taff Valley* as far as *Pentyrch*.

Llantrissant, Dolomitic conglomerate overlying the hæmatite deposits.

Castell Coch, Limestone rocks.

Coal-measures at *Maesteg*.

Anthracite coal at *Cwm Amman*.

Marine coal shells at *Rhymney Gate*, near *Merthyr*.

Fish remains, marine shells, and ferns at *Beaufort* and *Ebbw Vale*.

Limestone rocks of *Gower* and *Worm's Head*.

Black shales at *Bishopston*.

Bone caves of *Bacon Hole* and *Paviland*, *Gwent*.

Limestone rocks at *Tenby*.

Junction of ditto with Old Red at *Caldy Island*.

Contorted strata of Limestone of *S. Pembrokeshire*.

Cornstones at *Pontrilas*, *Herefordshire*.

The *Seyrriid Hill*, near *Abergavenny*.

Cornstones of *Bwlch*, between *Crickhowel* and *Brecon*.

The *Daren* near *Crickhowel*, and *Pen-carreg-calch*.

Bradnor Hill Tilestones at *Kington*.

Tilestones of *Clyro Hills*, near *Hay*.

Horeb Chapel tilestones, *Cwm Dâr*, *Trecastle*.

Ludlow rocks of the *Epynt* and *Bwlch-y-groes Hills*.

The *Usk* valley of elevation.

Ludlow Rocks at *Penylan*, near *Cardiff*.

The Wenlock limestone and Pentamerus bed at *Corton*, near *Presteign*.

Nash Scar.

The eruptive rocks of *Stanner*, &c.

The *Llandeilo* rocks, near *Builth* (*Wellfield*), and the trap of the *Carneddau Hills*.

The lower Silurian rocks of *Llanwrtyd*.

The Llandovery beds at *Noeth Crug* (*Llandovery*).

The *Gogofau* gold-mines.

Valley of the *Sawdde*, near *Llangadock*.

Cilgwyn, near *Llandovery*.

Llandeilo.

Mount Pleasant, *Caermarthen* (Lower Silurian).

Purple fossiliferous slates of *St. David's*, *Treffgarn Hills*.

The *Sarn Cynfelin*, near *Aberystwyth*. *Lisburne* and *Goginau* lead-mines.

IX. SKELETON ROUTES.

A. CHIEF PLACES OF INTEREST, ARRANGED ACCORDING TO COUNTIES.

Those best worth seeing are marked with an asterisk.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

Chepstow. *Castle. Portwall. Ch. Tubular Bridge. *Piercefield Grounds. Mathern Ch. and Palace. Moyne's Court. *Wyndcliff Hill. Bannagor Rocks. *Tintern Abbey.

Monmouth. *St. Thomas's Ch. *Bridge-gate. Town Hall. *Kymin Hill. *Buckstone. Stanton Ch. Doward Hill and Camp. *Symond's Yat. *Coldwell Rocks. *St. Briavel's Castle. Troy House. Trelech Ch. and Stones. Mitchel Troy Ch. Treowen Manor-house.

Raglan. *Castle.

Usk. *Castle. Ch. Silurian Rocks at Llanbadock. Llangibby Castle. Camps at Coed-y-Bunedd and Gaer-fawr. Cromlech at Newchurch.

Porthskewit. Sudbrook Chapel and Camp. *Caerwent. *Caldecot Castle and Ch. Dinham, Llanvair, Troggy, Penhow, and Pencoed Castles. View from Pencae-mawr.

Magor. Ch.

Newport. View from *St. Woollos Ch. *Castle. Docks. *Caerleon. Amphitheatre, Castle Grounds, and *Museum. Malpas Ch.

Pontypool. Park. Tin-works. Trevethin Ch. Blaenafon Iron-works. *Crumlin Viaduct. *Twm Barlwm Hill.

Brynmawr. *Nantyglo or *Ebbwvale Iron-works. Blaina Works and Ch. Scenery of *Ebbw Valley, Clydach Valley, and *Pwll-y-cwm Waterfall.

Abergavenny. *Ch. Castle. *Seyrriid and *Sugar-Loaf Hills. Blorunge Mount. White Castle. *Cwmyoy and Llanthony Abbey.

HEREFORDSHIRE, as far as relates to the Wye Tour.

Hereford. *Cathedral. Town Hall. Castle Green. Blackfriars. Dinedor Hill. Holme Lacy House. *White Cross. Madley Ch. Kenchester.

Ross. *Ch. View from *Royal Hotel. Wilton Castle. *Goodrich Court and *Castle. Welsh Bicknor Ch. The Wye from Goodrich to Monmouth.

Pontrilas. Vale of Monnow. Ewias Harold Ch. *Abbeystead Ch. Garway Ch. and Dovecot. *Grosmont Ch. and Castle. *Skenfrith Castle. *Kilpeck Ch.

Kington. *Ch. Bradnor Hill. Offa's Dyke. Wapley.

BRECONSHIRE.

Crickhowel. *Ch. Castle. *Camp on Table Hill. *Porthmawr Gateway. *Llangenau Ch. Valley of the Grwyney. Partrishow Ch. *Tretower Castle. Cwmddu Ch. View from Bwlch Pass. Turpilian and Victorinus Stones. *Llangorse Lake. Tal-y-llyn Ch. Valleys of Dyffryn Crownan and Glyn Collwng.

Brecon. St. Mary's Ch. *Priory Ch. *Christ's Coll. *Castle.

The Gaer. Maen-y-Morwynion. The *Beacons. Llanddew Palace. Inscribed Stones at Llandevaillog Ch. Llanspydidd Ch. *Derynnoch*. Ch. Vale of Senni. Penwylt. Scwd Hên Rhyd Fall. *Hay*. Ch. Castle. *Cusop Valley and Black Mountains. Mouse Castle. Cromlech at Moccas. *Clifford Castle. Gwernyfed Manor-house. *Bronllys Castle. *Builth*. Park Wells. Aberedw Ch. *Pwllddu. *Cwm Bedd Llewelyn. *Llanwrtyd*. *Vale of Yrfon. *Llanddewi Abergwessin.

4. GLAMORGANSHIRE.

Cardiff. *Bute Docks. *Castle. St. John's Church. *Llandaff*. *Cathedral. Bishop's Gateway. Sully Castle. *Barry Island and Castle. *St Nicholas' and St. Lythan's Cromlechs. Fonmon. *Llantrissant*. Iron Mines. View from Ch. *Cowbridge*. Beaupré. *Llantwit Ch. and Town Hall. *St. Donat's Castle, Ch., and Cross. Southerndown. Ogmere Castle. *Ewenny Priory. St. Bride's Ch. Merthyrmaur Crosses. *Bridgend*. *Coity Ch. and Castle. Newton Ch. Coychurch. *Margam. *Aberavon Works. *Neath*. Castle. *Abbey. *Neath Valley. Resolven. *Pont Neath Vaughan. *Waterfalls on Hepste, Mellte, and Pyrrdin. *Porth yr. Ogof. Ystradfellte. Maen Madoc, and Maen Llia. *Swansea*. *Castle. Ch. *Museum. *Docks. *Copper Works. Ynispenllwch Tin Works. Pontardawe Ch. Carn Llechart. Yniscedwin Iron Works. Ystradgunlais Ch. *Gower*. *Oystermouth Castle. Mumbles Rocks and Lighthouse. *Caswall Bay and *Coast Scenery. Pwllddu Point. *Bishopston Valley and Ch. *Ilston Ch. *Bacon Hole Bone Cave. Pennard Castle. *Cefn Bryn. *Arthur's Stone. *Penrice Castle and Ch. *Oxwich Castle. Paviland Caves. *Worm's Head. Rhosilly. Llangennith Ch. *Harding Down Camp. Llanmadoc Bone Cave. Weobley Castle. Lloughor Castle and *Bridge. *Taff Vale*. *Castell Coch. *Caerphilly Castle. *Pontypridd Bridge. *Rhondda Valley. *Craig-y-Llyn. *Aberdare. *Merthyr Ironworks. Dowlais. *Pontsarn Waterfall. *Morlais Castle.

5. CAERMARTHENSHIRE.

Llanelly. Copper Works and Docks. *Kidwelly*. Ch. and *Castle. *Llanstephan Castle. Llaugharne Castle. *Caermarthen*. *Ch. Obelisk. Whitland Abbey. *Cwm Gwili. Cynfil. Abergwili. *Dryslyn Castle. *Llandeilo*. Grongar Hill. *Llandeilo Ch. *Dynevore Castle. *Carreg Cennen Castle. Court Bryn y Beirdd. Source of the Lloughor. *Carngoch. Llangadock. *Talley Abbey. *Llandovery*. Vale of Cothi. *Gogofau Mines. Cynvil Ch. Llanfair-y-Bryn Ch. *Capel Ystrad Ffin. Twm Shon Catti's Cave. Vales of Doeithiau and Pysgottwr.

6. RADNORSHIRE.

Rhayader. Vales of *Elan and *Clarwen. Road to *Builth.

Llandrindod. *Cefnlys Castle. *Abbey Cwm Hir. Devanner.
Camps in Cwm Aran. Stanner Rocks.
Radnor. *Water-break-its-neck. Penybont. Old Radnor Ch. Pilleth Ch.
Knighton. Camps at *Caer Caradoc and Coxwall Knoll.
Presteign Ch.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

*Upper portion of the Wye. Plinlymmon. *Falls at Port Erwyd.
*Parson's Bridge. *Devil's Bridge. *Goginau Mines. *Llanbadarn Vawr Ch.
Aberystwyth. *Castle. Plas Crug. *Craiglais. Vale of Clarach.
*Sarn Cynfelin. Cwm Ystwith Mines. *Hafod. *Eglwys Newydd (*Chantrey's Monum.). Lisburne Mines. Llanavan.
*View from Ffairhos. Ystrad Meirig School. Strata Florida Abbey. *Lakes of the Teifi. Tregaron.
Cardigan Ch. *St. Dogmael's Abbey. *Kenarth Bridge. Cillgerran Castle.
Newcastle. *Castle.
Lampeter. College. Llanvair Clydogau Mine. *Llanddewi Brefi.
*Llanio. Vale of Aeron.
Aberayron. New Quay. Castle Nadolig. Llanrhystyd.

PEMBROKESHIRE.

Narberth Castle.
*Tenby Church; *Castle. Caldy Island. *Saundersfoot. St. Catherine's. *Gumfreston Ch. Carew Ch., *Castle, and Cross. *Penally Ch. Lydstep Caves. *Manorbeer Castle and Ch. *Stackpole Court. Cheriton Ch. *St. Gowan's Head and Chapel. *Coast to Stack Rocks.
*Pembroke Castle. *Monkton Priory. Castle Martin and Warren Ch. *Lamphey Court. *Hodgeston Ch. Upton Castle. Benton Castle. *Pater Dockyard. *Milford.
*Haverfordwest and St. Mary's Ch. Picton Castle. Slebech. *Llawhawden Castle. Broadhaven. Roch Castle. View over St. Bride's Bay. Newgale. *Solva.
*St. David's Cathedral, College, and Palace. Nun's Chapel. Whitesand Bay. Penlan Fort. *St. David's Head. Carn Llidi. Penberry. *Trevine Cromlech.
*Fishguard. *Goodwick. *Spot where the French landed. Cromlechs near Strumble Head. Preseley Hills. *Dinas Head. Newport Castle and Cromlech. *Nevern Ch. and Cross. *Pentre Evan Cromlech.

B. SKELETON TOUR OF ONE MONTH

through the Southern portion of South Wales.

DAYS.

1. London to Tenby (by rail) viâ Whitland.
2. Tenby Castle. Ch. Walls. Penally. If tide admits, visit Lydstep. Excursion to Caldy, or drive to Saundersfoot.
3. Excursion to Manorbeer, Stackpole Court, Cheriton Ch., St. Gowan's Head, Stacks, and sleep at Pembroke.

[S. Wales.]

DAYS.

4. See Monkton, Lamphey, Carew, Pater, and sleep at New Milford.
5. Visit Milford, and by train to Haverfordwest, St. Mary's Ch. ; in omnibus serves, to St. David's in afternoon. (It is a glorious walk for a pedestrian, who must take care on reaching Newgale to follow the road and not cut across the marshes.)
6. St. David's. Cathedral, College, Palace. If time, visit St. David's Head or the Nun's Chapel near Caerfai. (The tourist should endeavour to spend Sunday here.)
7. Cromlech at Trevine, and on to Fishguard (there is no conveyance) Visit Goodwick and Carreg Gwasted.
8. Excursion to Preseley Hills. The pedestrian had better not return to Fishguard, but descend to Newport.
9. Dinas Head, Newport Castle, Nevern Ch. and Cross, Cromlech at Pentre Evan ; Cardigan. Visit Cilgerran.
10. In morning visit St. Dogmael's Priory. By coach to Newcastle Emlyn, and Llandyssil, and on by rail to Caermarthen.
11. Visit Llanstephan and Kidwelly, and back to Caermarthen, or on to Llanelly.
12. From Caermarthen to Llandeilo by rail, or from Llanelly to Llandeilo by rail. Visit Dynevor Park, Carreg Cennen Castle.
13. Carn Goch, Llandovery. Excursion either to Gogofau or up the Valley of Towy to Capel Ystrad Ffin.
14. To Swansea by rail. Visit Castle, Docks, Museum, and by omnibus to Oystermouth Castle and Mumbles.
15. By Swansea Vale Railway to Ystalyfera and walk on to Ystradgunlais. If time permit, visit Waterfall of Scwd Hen Rhyd. If the tourist prefer, he can spend this day in an excursion to the Bone Caves of Gower and the Worm's Head. (There is no conveyance.)
16. To Neath and Vale of Neath. Get out at Glyn Neath Station, and visit the Waterfalls. The first train ought to be taken to allow of this. In the evening take the last train to Merthyr Tydvil.
17. Visit Iron-works, Pontsarn, and Morlais Castle. In afternoon by rail to Brecon.
18. Visit Priory Church ; ascend Beacons.
19. To Crickhowel : coach ; or the rail can be taken as far as Talybont. Visit Crickhowel Castle, Ch., and Llangenau Valley, and in evening to Abergavenny.
20. From Abergavenny by rail to Pontypool, and from thence by Crumlin and Quakers' Yard to Cardiff. Visit Docks.
21. Visit Llandaff Cathedral ; if possible, let it be Sunday.
22. By Taff Vale Rail to Castell Coch and from Walnut-Tree Bridge to Caerphilly.
23. From Cardiff to Cowbridge by rail (if driving, visit St. Nicholas Cromlech), and thence by Llantwit Major, St. Donat's, Ogmere, and Ewenny Priory, to Bridgend.
24. From Bridgend to Newport. Visit St. Woollos, or else, if time permit Caerleon. In afternoon by train to Usk and Raglan.
25. From Raglan to Abergavenny (a magnificent drive), and on by rail to Hereford. (A pedestrian may get out at Llanvihangel Station, visit Llanthony Abbey, and be back in time for the last train to Hereford. Conveyances must be obtained at Abergavenny, as there are none at Llanvihangel.

AYS.

26. Visit Cathedral, and, if on proper days, Holm Lacy ; in afternoon to Ross by rail.
27. From Ross to Monmouth by coach or water. Visit Goodrich Court and Castle, Symond's Yat, and Buckstone.
28. Monmouth to Chepstow by water. Visit Tintern and Wyndcliff.
29. Chepstow Castle. Mathern, Caerwent, and Caldecot. From Porthskewit Station.
30. Chepstow to London, &c.

Wye Tour.

[This tour, including Sundays, will be about 33 days.]

C. A TOUR OF SIX WEEKS.

1. From London to Kington by rail, viâ Ludlow.
2. Kington to Rhayader by post. Excursion up Vale of Elan.
3. Excursion to Abbey Cwm Hir, Llandrindod, and Cefn Llŷs Castle.
4. By rail to Builth, Hay, and Brecon.
5. Visit Priory, Castle, the Gaer, Beacons.
6. Post to Llandovery and by rail to Llandeilo. Visit Dynevor Park and Carregcennen Castle.
7. From Llandovery by rail to Llanwrtyd Wells and Builth. (A pedestrian may start early, go up to Capel Ystrah Ffin, cross the mountains to Llanwrtyd, and on by rail to Builth in the evening.)
8. From Builth to Aberystwyth by rail.
9. Visit Castle, Llanbadarn Vawr, Constitution Hill, Clarach Vale, &c.
10. By omnibus to Devil's Bridge, visit Hafod, and sleep at Devil's Bridge.
1. By rail to Strata Florida Abbey (if time, to Llyn Teifi), and on by rail to Tregaron.
2. From Tregaron by rail to Loventium, Llanddewi Brefi, Lampeter and Caermarthen.
3. Caermarthen to Tenby by Whitland ; on way visit Llawhawden Castle.
4. Tenby.
5. Manorbier and the coast.
6. Monkton, Pater, &c.
7. Haverfordwest, St. David's.
8. St. David's.
9. Fishguard.
10. Newport, Nevern, &c.
1. Cardigan, Cilgerran, rail to Caermarthen.
2. Kidwelly.
3. Swansea and Vale.
4. } Gower.
5. }
6. Neath. Abbey. Margam.
7. Bridgend. Dunraven.
8. Vale of Neath Waterfalls ; in evening to Merthyr to see its Ironworks.
9. Merthyr to Abergavenny by rail. Visit Ch. Castle (if time, ascend Sugar Loaf). In evening to Crickhowell (post).

DAYS.

30. Back to Abergavenny, and by rail to Pontypool, Crumlin Viaduct, the Quakers' Yard, and so to Cardiff.
31. Llandaff.
32. Caerphilly and Rhymney Valley.
33. Penarth and coast.
34. To Newport by rail. Visit St. Woollos Ch., Castle, Docks. Excursion to Caerleon.
35. To Pontypool, Usk. Raglan by rail.
36. Raglan Castle. White Castle. To Hereford.
37. Hereford. Cathedral. Kilpeck Ch. (St. Devereux Station), Ross.
38. Ross to Monmouth. If time permit, excursion to Grosmont Castle.
39. Monmouth to Chepstow. Tintern, Wyndcliff.
40. Chepstow Castle. Mathern. From Porthskewit to Caerwent and Caldecot.
41. From Chepstow to Gloucester, &c., or by steamer to Bristol.

D. PEDESTRIAN TOUR THROUGH THE HEART OF WALES,

which may be added to or substituted for any of the days' routes mentioned before.

Arriving at Pontypool from Hereford or Newport.

1. From Pontypool across the Crumlin, Sirhowy, Rhymney, and Tal Vales. A not very long walk, but fatiguing, owing to the height and number of the hills to be crossed.
2. From Pontypridd to the head of the Rhondda valley, across Graig-y-Llyn to the Lamb and Flag in Neath Valley. About 26 m.
3. Visit Waterfalls and Sewd Hên Rhyd, returning by Ystradgunlais to Ystalyfera, where take train to Swansea.
4. Swansea to Worm's Head, Gower. 20 m. Sleep at Pitton Farm house.
5. Return to Swansea, visiting the remaining places not seen the day before.
6. Take train to Aberafon; walk through Cwm Avon to Maesteg, and up through Glyn Corrwg into Vale of Neath. A good day's work. If possible, try and catch the last train to Merthyr.
7. From Merthyr by Castle Morlais up the Valley of the Lesser Taff to Beacons, and down to Brecon.
8. Walk to Llandovery, and in afternoon visit Llandeilo, &c., returning to Llandovery.
9. Start early, and walk up the Towey to Capel Ystrad y Ffin. Visit Twm Shon Catti's Cave, and thence up the Vale of either the Doeithiau or Pysgottwr to Tregaron. This is a long walk, solitary and requires a fine day and a good map.
10. From Tregaron to Strata Florida, Llyn Teifi, and sleep at Hafod Arms.
11. Visit Parson's Bridge, Falls of the Rheidol at Pont Erwyd, and ascend Plinlymmon. In evening, train to Aberystwyth.
12. By train from Aberystwyth to Llanidloes, and walk to Rhayader.
13. Up the Vale of Elan and Clarwen to Drygarn mountain, and descend by the Vale of Yrfon to Llanwrtyd Wells, and by rail to Builth.
14. From Builth to Hay.

15. From Hay, across the Black Mountains, to Llanthony Abbey, and down the Honddu to Llanvihangel Station.

These routes may of course be altered or interpolated with others in every possible way.

E. A COAST WALK OF A FORTNIGHT.

1. From Cardiff, by Penarth Head, Aberthaw, Barry Island, to Llantwit (a very poor inn).
2. By St. Donats, Southerndown, to Bridgend, from whence take the train to Swansea.
3. To Mumbles, Caswall Bay, Pwllddu Point, and up Bishopton Valley to Gower Inn.
4. By Paviland to Worm's Head (sleep at Pitton Farmhouse).
5. Back to Swansea or Gower Road Station over Harding Down and Cefn Bryn. Take train to Kidwelly.
6. Take train to Ferryside, cross ferries at Llanstephan and Llaugharne, and follow coast to Saundersfoot and Tenby.
7. Round by Manorbeer to Boshaston (?). As there are no inns in this district, the pedestrian must endeavour to put up at a farmhouse.
8. To Pembroke and Milford.
9. Milford to St. David's.
10. To Fishguard by St. David's Head.
11. To Cardigan.

X. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOWLAIS IRON WORKS.

The Dowlais Iron and Steel Works occupy the narrow valley of the Dowlais a little below its junction with the Morlais. Both streams rise within the northern limits of the coal-basin, the Dowlais just within and upon the lowest measures, the Morlais between them and the limestone.

The town of Dowlais covers the triangle between the two streams, extending northwards from their junction at Gellifaelog. The base of this triangle is formed by the Ivor Works, a part of those of Dowlais. The Penydaran Works stand upon the brook below Dowlais, but are now closed. Dowlais and Penydaran hold under Lord Bute upon the common of Gelligaer, south-east of and above their works. The Penydaran coal-field was purchased by the Dowlais Company, and the works have long been closed.

The tenure of the Bute minerals is of high antiquity. Lord Bute represents in law, though not in blood, the old Norman Lords of the Honour of Cardiff, who conquered Gelligaer from the Welsh, and held it for centuries at the sword's point. It was granted, with other seignorial rights, by Edward VI., to Herbert, maternal ancestor of Lord Bute. Lord Windsor, who was the Penydaran landlord, and is a large coal owner in Merthyr and Aberdare, represents the far older, but the conquered possessor. His not very remote ancestress was the heiress of

the ancient and wealthy Glamorganshire family of Lewis of the Van, from whom nearly the whole tract between the Taff and the Rhymney was wrested, but who have retained to the present day the other portions of their extensive property. Their district of Morlais is full of traditions and local names commemorative of Ivor Bach, the Roland of the Glamorganshire Paladins, to whose memory manufacture itself in this nineteenth century has paid an unconscious tribute in the name of the Ivor Works.

The mineral wealth of the Merthyr district was long unavailable, and probably unsuspected. The iron ores of the South and West, of Monmouth, Somerset, and Sussex, were rich in quality, superficial in position, and lay surrounded by forests, then the only source of fuel.

It was not until towards the seventeenth century that pit-coal was applied to the smelting of iron ore, and it was by tedious, difficult, and irregular steps that it came into general use. The commercial spirit of England, quickened in some degree by the intelligent and industrious Protestant artisans banished by Louis XIV., began with the eighteenth century to pervade every branch of industry. Dud Dudley's process for smelting iron by means of coal was brought into general use, and in the adjacent counties of Stafford and Salop, Dudley, Wednesbury, and Bridgenorth, became the seats of an iron manufacture sufficiently profitable to direct attention to other coal-fields.

Of these one of the earliest was Merthyr Tydfil. In 1748, 10th March, the Hon. Thomas Morgan, of Ruperra, took a lease, dating from 1st May, but not finally executed until the 1st Nov. 1749, for 99 years, of the toll-house and fair of Marchnad-y-Waun, 20 acres of land about it, and the minerals of the manor of Senghenydd-super-Caiach, including the commons of Blaen Rhymney and Gelligaer. Whether Mr. Morgan worked these minerals is unknown; probably he did not, but certainly he induced others to do so, for, before 1759, he had assigned his lease to the nucleus of the Dowlais Company, represented then by Mr. Lewis, of Newhouse, and a partnership, with a subscribed capital of 4000*l.*; and when, in November, 1762, the original lease was surrendered, the re-grant was on the plea of the great expense to which the applicants had gone, the furnace which they had erected, and the considerable quarries of stone which they had opened. The new lease was for the remainder of the old term. The old rental had been 23*l.* per annum, with an additional property, of which a sub-lease fell in. The new lease was for an advanced rent of 5*l.*, upon which rent of 3*l.* the Dowlais minerals were worked until the recent expiration of the lease.

The new lessees were all members of the partnership of 1759. They retained their original division of the property into 16 shares, Mr. Lewis being the principal holder. After various changes, and the admission and retirement of various small partners—one of whom was Robert Thompson, uncle to and founder of the fortunes of the late Alderman of that name—Mr. John Guest, of Brosely Ironworks, ap-

peared in 1782, 19th August, as a partner, and by their skill and assiduity he and his descendants gradually increased their interests in the concern, until, at the expiration of the lease, Sir John Guest held 10 shares, his nephew, Mr. Hutchins, 1 share, and the Rev. W. P. Lewis, grandson of the original lessee, 5 shares.

Shortly after the renewal of the lease, Sir J. J. Guest became the sole lessee, having purchased out the other interests, and so died in 1852, leaving the works in trust, under which management they are still carried on.

It is remarkable that the two original lessees—the Adventurers, as they were called—Mr. Morgan and Mr. Lewis, should have appeared in such a capacity. Both were men of fortune, members of county families celebrated for antiquity of race and attachment to Welsh customs, but not celebrated for the acquisition of wealth in any kind of trade; frequent and excellent as knights and sheriffs, but quite unknown as ironmasters or manufacturers. Possibly, they found the capital, and had wit to see the probable future value of the property.

But, whatever the lessees may have thought of their property, the lessors had clearly no opinion of its value. The lease fixes no dead-rent, no royalty upon the minerals, makes no provision for their extended workings, imposes no fine upon their being sub-let or wasted, makes no stipulation for any outlay of capital. The whole manor, from the Caiach northwards to the county border, about 16 miles long, was leased without any limitation! It is, indeed, probable that for many years the property was not productive, and it did not produce extraordinary profits to any of the original lessees; but even the second generation found it lucrative, and before the termination of the lease there were years in which the profits were much above 3000 times the rent.

The negotiations for the renewal of the lease lasted through many years. It is said that Lord Bute had a presentiment that he should not live to sign the new lease, and it is probable that the anxious and warm discussions on the subject shortened the lives of both lessor and lessee. Lord Bute died suddenly a few days before he was to have affixed his signature; and when, some time afterwards, the lease was sent to Sir John Guest to be executed, he too lay on his death-bed and died without having been able to attend to it. The renewal passed between trustees on each side.

Although the firm bore the designation of “Guest, Lewis, & Co.,” or “the Dowlais Iron Company,” Sir John Guest, even while only one of several partners, was long and justly regarded as its real representative. From the death of his uncle in 1815 to his own death in 1852, a period of 37 years, he was its active and sole manager. When he took the management Dowlais may have numbered about 1000 people, and the works produced from 5 furnaces about 15,000 tons annually of pig-iron. Sir John Guest found Merthyr a mere village; he did more than any single man to leave it a populous town, larger than, and as opulent as, many cities, and the head of a borough which from the

time of its enfranchisement he represented in Parliament. During his life he was the only Merthyr ironmaster who provided a place of worship for his people or a school for their children, and he well deserved the eulogium inscribed upon his tombstone at Dowlais.

Upon Sir John's death and the marriage of his widow, Mr. G. T. Clark became the sole trustee. With him was then associated Mr. Bruce, now Lord Aberdare, who for some time took an active share in the business. Under the trust the coal leases were renewed and extended, the Penydaran coal-pit was purchased, the Bessemer-Mushet steel-making processes introduced, and the works more than doubled their producing power. They were for many years the only Welsh works in which steel rails were made, and they introduced the novelty of ship-plates.

In 1888 the works produced—

			tons.
of finished steel	.	.	199,146
„ iron .	.	.	15,591

In a few years the local iron ore failed to meet the demand. They imported ore from Barrow, from Northamptonshire, and finally from Bilbao, whence at this time their principal supply is drawn. Under the influence of severe competition the distance of the works from the port became a serious disadvantage, and in 1888 the trustee accepted a large lease of ground on the Bute Dock site at Cardiff, upon which smelting furnaces and rolling mills are now rising.

The Dowlais Company, whilst thus expanding its operations, has not neglected duties of a different character. The schools, the largest in Britain, numbered, in 1888, 2044.

HANDBOOK

FOR

SOUTH WALES.

ROUTES.

* The names of places are printed in *italics* only in those routes where the *places* are described.

ROUTE	PAGE	ROUTE	PAGE
1 <i>Chepstow</i> to <i>Swansea</i> , by <i>Newport, Cardiff, Bridgend, and Neath</i>	2	13 <i>Brecon</i> to <i>Neath</i> , by <i>Delyn-nock</i>	114
2 <i>Swansea</i> to <i>Milford Haven</i> , by <i>Llanelly, Caermarthen, and Haverfordwest</i>	37	14 <i>Cardiff</i> to <i>Rhymney</i> , by <i>Caerphilly</i>	117
3 <i>Hereford</i> to <i>Chepstow</i> , by <i>Ross and Monmouth</i> . . .	52	15 <i>Cardiff</i> to <i>Merthyr</i> , by <i>Pont-y-pridd</i>	120
4 <i>Newport</i> to <i>Hereford</i> , by <i>Pontypool Road</i> and <i>Abergavenny</i>	68	16 <i>Hereford</i> to <i>Brecon</i> , by <i>Hay and Talgarth</i>	126
5 <i>Newport</i> to <i>Monmouth</i> , by <i>Usk and Raglan</i>	76	17 <i>Hereford</i> to <i>Aberystwyth</i> , by <i>Three Cocks, Builth, Rhayader, and Llanidloes</i> . . .	133
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ROUTE 1.

FROM CHEPSTOW TO SWANSEA, BY
NEWPORT, CARDIFF, BRIDGEND
AND NEATH.

(*South Wales Railway.*)

♂ **Chepstow** Stat., from its position on the borders of Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, and its accessibility, is the most convenient place from which to commence a tour of South Wales. It is on the main line of rly. from Gloucester to Milford, is easily approached from Bristol by rail (*viâ* Porthskewit) or steamer, and is at the gates of the beautiful scenery of the Wye. A Wye Valley line from Monmouth to Chepstow is also available.

On emerging from the deep cutting of mountain limestone on the Gloucestershire side of the river, a fine view of the town is gained, as the train glides over the **Tubular Bridge**, a bold conception of the late Mr. Brunel, though, in itself, scarcely harmonizing with the rest of the scene. It blends the principles of Telford's suspension and Stephenson's tubular bridges, and consists of two superstructures divided into four spans, the whole being 600 ft. long. The tubes are supported at intervals upon the chains by vertical trusses, and are about 152 ft. above low-water mark; the river piers being sunk to a depth of 50 ft., until they rest on the mountain limestone. This bridge was opened in 1852. Chepstow is situated altogether on the W. bank of the Wye, about 2½ m. from its confluence with the Severn, and, viewed from the opposite side, presents a most picturesque appearance; the most striking feature being the ruined castle, forming, as

it were, part of the steep limestone cliffs, which descend to the water's edge in bold escarpments.

The counties of Monmouth and Gloucester are here connected (in addition to the rly. viaduct) by a handsome road bridge of 5 arches, erected in 1816. At the upper end of the principal street is a stone gate, part of the ancient fortifications: but more perfect specimens exist in the *Walls*, flanked at intervals by towers which surround the old Port, commencing a little below the bridge, and extending by the W. gate round the whole town, almost back to the bridge. They are well seen from the rly., soon after quitting the station on the Monmouthshire side.

The **Church**, once conventual, and belonging to the Benedictine Priory, is mentioned as early as 1168 in the Bull of Pope Alexander III., and was founded either by the Norm. Baron, William Fitz-Osborn, or by his successor, Earl Richard Fitzgilbert, ancestor of the Clares. It is dedicated to St. Mary, and is the sole survivor of four churches in Chepstow. It has undergone an unusual number of alterations, but still contains a considerable portion of Norman architecture. At the W. end, under an ugly modern tower, is a circular portal richly adorned with chevrons and zigzag mouldings. This, together with the 3 round-headed windows above it, is a counterpart of the doorway of St. George's at Boscherville in Normandy. A central tower is said, on the authority of Coxe, to have existed, and to have fallen in 1720, but this is not confirmed by older writers. Great alterations, however, were made in 1837, by the throwing out of a new chancel, for the development of which one of the bays of the nave was sacrificed.

The nave is ancient, and its rows of circular arches are supported on massive square piers, somewhat like

hose of St. Albans. Over these arches are triforia, consisting of apertures pierced in the wall, and a range of E. Norm. clerestory windows. The triforia differ somewhat in the N. and S. sides.

"A little attention ascertains the truth, that among the accumulations of successive periods of barbarism here lies concealed the nearly perfect nave of no contemptible Norman minster."—*E. A. F.* Here is a monument to Henry, 2nd Earl of Worcester, bearing his marble effigy under a canopy supported by Corinthian pillars. Under a slab in the chancel is interred Hen. Marten, the regicide, who died 1680, aged 70.

By far the most interesting object at Chepstow is the **Castle**, of great extent and in tolerable preservation, highly picturesque in form, and most striking in its situation on a deep platform of rock, on one side washed by the Wye, and, on the other, separated from the town wall by a deep dingle, that is prettily clothed with greensward and timber, and forms a natural dry moat to the fortress. The entrance on the E. side, crossing the bridge, is by a gate-house flanked with circular towers, still retaining its ponderous doors, not indeed original, but old, coated with iron-plates, and cross-barred within. The entrance vault is grooved for the portcullis, and pierced with the usual apertures for stockades. The ground-plan of the fortress is an irregular parallelogram, covering 12 acres, divided into 4 courts, each with its separate defences, one being the formidable river-cliff, on the edge of which the N. wall is built. In the Domesday Book, it is spoken of as *Castellum de Estrighoiel*, or *Striguil*, but the British name was *Segwent*, and the Saxon, *Cheapowe*. Though a castle was built here by the Norman, Fitz-Osborn, Earl of Hereford, in the 11th cent., and though portions of that structure may still be seen in the keep,

most of Chepstow must be looked upon as the work of the reigns of the three Edwards, with additions even of later date. It belonged to the Clares, upon whom the castle and estates were bestowed by the King upon the attainder of Roger de Britolio, 3rd son of Fitz-Osborn. Dugdale relates a curious anecdote of this Roger, "though he frequently used many scornful expressions towards the King, yet was the King pleased, at the celebration of the Feast of Easter, in a solemn manner, as was then usual, to send to this Earl Roger, at that time in prison, his royal robes, who so disdained the favour, that he forthwith caused a great fire to be made, and the mantle, the tunic, surcoat of silk, and the upper garment lined with precious furs, to be suddenly burnt; which being made known to the King, he became a little displeased and said, 'certainly he is a very proud man, who hath thus abused me, but by the brightness of God he shall never come out of prison so long as I live.'" The King kept his oath, and the proud lawless Earl ended his days in confinement. The castle came through Isabel, daughter and heiress of Richard Strongbow, Earl of Striguil, Chepstow, and Pembroke, by marriage to the Marshalls, and eventually, also by marriage, to the Herberts, from whom its present owners, the Somerset family, acquired it. On entering the first court on rt. are the offices, including the kitchen, marked by its wide chimneys, and, below it, a chamber excavated in the rock, an opening in which overlooks the river: this is called a dungeon, but was more probably a cellar. On the l. is a very fine drum-tower, where the regicide Hen. Marten, the wit, and one of the few convinced Republicans of the Revolution, was confined for 20 years. He died on the 9th Sept. 1680, and was buried originally in the chancel of St.

Mary's Ch., but a later vicar, not brooking that the bones of a regicide should moulder so near the altar, had them removed to a passage between the nave and the N. aisle. Here also was imprisoned Jeremy Taylor on a charge of complicity with a Royalist insurrection.

In an upper story is an oratory of singular beauty, lighted by a pointed window on the E. There is some ball-flower moulding in this apartment, together with a piscina near the S. window. The 2nd court is converted into a garden, and beyond it rises the original Norm. keep, the nucleus and oldest part of the whole work, though much altered, and pierced with pointed windows. In the original wall are courses of bricks and tiles, possibly taken from some Roman works. There are some good details in the clustered columns of the windows. The chief apartment within was evidently the hall, with pointed arches and elaborately carved windows. Its length is 90 ft., and its breadth 30 ft. Behind the last, or western court, is another entrance, defended by drawbridge, moat, portcullis, &c., even more strongly if possible than the main entrance, but of inferior work and later date. The castle was several times taken and recovered by the two parties in the civil war, and was even at one time besieged by Cromwell in person, who, pressing forward to quell the insurrection at Pembroke, left it to be reduced by his lieutenant, Col. Ewer. The Royalists, when nearly starved, prepared to escape down a rope into a boat on the river, when a Puritan soldier, discovering this, swam across and cut the boat adrift. The castle was then taken by assault, 1645. It was again besieged in 1648, when the commander of its little garrison, Sir Nicholas Kemys, was killed with 40 of his men. Afterwards the castle, with the park of Chepstow, together with the Chase of Wentwood and

several estates belonging to the Marquis of Worcester and others, amounting in value to 2500*l.* per annum, were granted by Parliament to Oliver Cromwell. At the Restoration the castle and lands were given back to their rightful owners, and have remained in their possession ever since.

The hills around Chepstow afford excellent views of the beauties of the surrounding country, and show in a remarkable degree the characteristics of the scenery of the carboniferous or mountain limestone. On the W., **Hardwick**, an old seat of the Thomas family, purchased and improved by the late Bp. Coplestone, commands an admirable view of Chepstow, the venerable fortifications of the old Port, and the mouth of the Wye. On the other hand, by crossing the bridge and mounting the hill, a beautiful landscape is gained, having for its principal points, **Piercefield** (late the residence of H. Clay, Esq.), the rocks on the W. Bank of the Wye, and the Wynd cliff.

The Wye is navigable for large vessels up to Chepstow Bridge, the *tide* rising higher here than at almost any other point on the coast of Britain. It is usually 40 ft., but not unfrequently, after a prevalence of winds which drive the sea into the Bristol Channel above its mean level, it has reached an elevation of 50 ft., and once in January, 1768, to 70 ft. This is probably owing to the jutting out of the rocks at Aust and Beachley.

At the entrance of the river is an islet, upon which are the ruins of an ancient chapel, said to have been built in the year 47, and commonly called **St. Tecla's** or Treacle chapel, one of the old "Free chapels" which were independent of any parochial jurisdiction. William of Worcester calls it "Capella Sancti Teriaci Anchoritæ."

This St. Tecla, the first British

female martyr, was the daughter of one of the petty reguli of Gwynedd, who being enamoured of a religious life, abandoned the rude splendour of her father's court, and retired after the manner of those primitive sages, to this lonely seabeaten rock, for purposes of prayer and meditation. She was not, however, long permitted to enjoy her solitude unmolested, for one of those roving bands of piratical Vikings, who infested this coast, swept down upon the lonely isle and murdered its occupant. The pious spirit of an after age reared the memorial chapel, whose scanty remains may yet be traced upon the summit of the rock. The ch. of Llandegla, in Denbighshire, is dedicated to this saint, and her well, in the same parish, long enjoyed a wondrous reputation for its cures of epilepsy, or, as it is termed by the Welsh, "Clwyf Tecla," or St. Tecla's disease. Llandegley, in Radnorshire, dedicated to the same saint, has a holy well, of special virtue in cutaneous disorders.

From **Beachley**, near this spot, is a ferry to the opposite coast, called the **Aust** or **Old Passage** (formerly the *Trajectus Augusti*), the distance being about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. The coaches from Wales to Bristol used to cross at this ferry, at which, in old times, many fatalities from drowning occurred.

Following the road to Chepstow from Beachley, on rt., is **Sedbury Park**, the seat of the late G. Ormerod, Esq., the learned historian of Cheshire, and of his son, Archdeacon Ormerod, a scholar and antiquary, who did not long survive him, and through whose grounds **Offa's Dyke**, which commences in the parish, may be easily traced. The general belief is that this dyke, which extends from the mouth of the Wye to that of the Dee, was simply a line of demarcation, though it is a happy suggestion that it was a frontier

barrier connecting a line of camps, and capable of being used on an emergency for defensive purposes.

To the N. of the Dyke are lofty precipices, conspicuous from the railway.† Between these Severn cliffs, and an ancient beacon on the plain adjoining a Roman potter's kiln was discovered a few years ago; and in 1859, intrenchments of what seems to have been a summer camp (*castra aestiva*) connected with Caerwent and the Passages. Draining operations have already produced much Roman pottery and other remains. *Cars* can be obtained at Chepstow for excursions to Tintern, 5 m. (Rte. 3); and *boats* are kept for the same purpose, for which advantage should be taken of the ascending tide.

As the traveller leaves Chepstow Stat. he skirts the banks of the Wye for a short distance, and gains some pretty peeps through the openings in the mountain limestone cutting.

2 m. on rt. is **Mathern**, called by Leland "a preatty pyle in Base Ventland," a pleasant sunny spot, containing the remains of the ancient palace, of quadrangular form, inhabited by the Bishops of Llandaff, until 1706. It is now a farmhouse, but still shows in its tower, gateway and mullioned windows, traces of its former grandeur. The *Ch.* is old and possesses a nave with aisles, chancel, and lofty square tower; in the interior are some E.E. arcades, and a tablet to the memory of Prince Tewdrig, with an inscription by Bishop Godwin. Tewdrig was King of Gwent and Morganwg, and was slain at the battle of Tintern, A.D. 600. A stone coffin was discovered by Bishop Godwin, as he tells us in his account of Llandaff Diocese, containing his

† Noticed in the *Geological Trans.* vol. i., and also in *Archæol.*, vol. xxix., with a map.

almost perfect skeleton—a ghastly fracture in the skull revealing plainly the cause of death.

Not far from Mathern is **Moynes Court** (in old documents called **Monk's Court**), built by Francis Godwin, Bp. of Llandaff, 1601-1617, but previously the seat of the De Moignes. It is conspicuous for a very picturesque gateway, flanked by slender side towers. Although, from its name, it was evidently a religious house, belonging to Mathern, it was afterwards the residence of Richard Hughes, a relation of Bp. Godwin. In the walls of the courtyard are 2 defaced Roman inscriptions, declared by Coxe to commemorate the restoration of the Temple of Diana by Postumius Varus.

A little further on the rt. of the rly., is the Park and old mansion of **St. Pierre**, for many centuries the seat of the family of Lewis, an early offshoot from the Morgans of Tredegar, when surnames were yet unfixed. The house, though old, has been modernized, but retains a Gothic gateway with flanking towers of the 16th centy. In the interior is a portrait, believed to be that of Henry Marten, the regicide. The ch. is a plain, single-aisled building close to the house, called in old documents "*Sancti Petri ecclesia*."

4½ m. PORTHSEKWIT JUNCT.—The steam ferry-boat has now been replaced by the tunnel which passes under the Severn about 1½ m. from the Junction. It has brought S. Wales much nearer to the West of England, and also affords the shortest route to Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, and the North. Fast trains by this route have recently been established by the G. W. R. in conjunction with the L. & N. W. R.

The tunnel is one of the most important engineering works of modern times. Its total length is 4 m. 624 yds., of which 2½ m. are under

the estuary of the Severn. At high-water spring tides the rails through the tunnel are at one point 150 feet below the surface of the water. The tunnel was opened for goods traffic on September 1st, 1886, nearly fourteen years from the time of beginning the works, and the first passenger train from London to S. Wales passed through it on July 1st, 1887. The time occupied in running through the tunnel is about seven minutes.

Overlooking the Channel are the remains of *Sudbrook Chapel*, and a British camp defended by triple ramparts.

Porthskewit, called in the Welsh Triads one of the three sites in the isle of Britain, was the site of a palace built by Harold, of which no traces remain. The village lies to the rt. of the rly., and is prettily situated. The ch. (restored) is a plain building, consisting of nave and chancel with tower at the W. end and S. porch.

[1½ m. from Porthskewit is **Caldicot Castle** (J. R. Cobb, Esq.), the towers of which are well seen from the rly. on rt. soon after leaving the stat. It is a good specimen of military architecture, consisting of a Round Keep (13th cent.), situated on a moated mound, and containing a vaulted subterranean dungeon, basement, and 3 stories above; in window recess of 2nd floor was an oratory. From the keep on S. and E. runs a shell, with horse-shoe towers 30 ft. high at intervals, embracing 1½ acre. At the E. the shell is partly destroyed. The whole is surrounded by a second moat. In centre of S. curtain is a Square Gatehouse (Dec.) with high roof, between 2 flanking latrine towers: this, the most striking portion of the castle, is fitted up by the owner as an occasional residence; it contains lofty guard rooms, the state chambers, and the remains of a chapel; one

flanking tower has a parapet supported on sculptured corbels, carrying pointed arched machicolations. Opposite is the Postern Tower. Between the gatehouse and the S.E. tower are 4 large and widely-splayed Dec. lights, of which 3 are divided by transoms. Several of the hearths have herring-bone work of tile-stones.

The whole building is remarkable for the excellence of its masonry. Caldicot is the most westerly place mentioned in Domesday. It was originally held by Durand the Sheriff, and subsequently by 10 successive Humphreys de Bohun, from whom it passed by marriage to Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, and was annexed to the Duchy of Lancaster by Henry VIII. The owner will allow inspection by persons interested in mediæval work who send in their names. *No picnic or large parties admitted.* The **Ch.** (restored) is unusually large, having a side aisle, nave, chancel, and a bold tower. The windows are good, and there is an example of the cinquefoil in the chancel. The service here is choral, and admirably performed by a surpliced choir.

Between Caldicot and Shirenewton is the ruined chapel of **Runston**, a religious establishment of some note, attached to Mathern.

1½ m. to the N. of Caldicot, on a rising ground amidst a broad valley, is **Caerwent**, the Venta Silurum of the Romans, and an important garrison of the 2nd Augustan Legion, situated on the Via Julia, which ran from Caerleon (Isca Silurum) through Caerwent, either to Strigulia (Chepstow) or to Caldicot Pill, there to cross the Channel. Of this road traces are still visible in the neighbourhood of the village of Crick. In Leland's time "there yet appeared pavements of old streates, and yn digging they founde foundations of greate bricces." Considerable frag-

ments of the ancient walls of Caerwent exist, on the plan of a parallelogram, although much overgrown with trees and shrubs. They enclosed an area of 40 acres, 500 yards long by 400 wide, and included a Roman villa with hypocausts, baths for private use, and all the flues and appurtenances thereof. The masonry is tolerably perfect on the W. and S. sides, on which are 2 bastions, built up against the wall, but not incorporated with it. Where the facings have been removed, the zigzag or herring-bone form of building is observable. Many Roman remains have been found here, particularly 2 tessellated pavements, fragments of which are still to be met with in the orchard; besides portions of columns, statues, and coins of the reigns of Severus and Gordian III., as well as of Gallienus, Constantine and other Emperors. Bodkins, pins, spindle-whirls, cups and bowls of Samian ware, and other indications of civilized life, have been discovered here also. The road to Newport intersects the place at right angles.

The **Ch.** has probably been built out of the materials of the Roman city. It has a porch with a rich doorway and a remarkable series of E. E. arcades with rather flat arches, in the S. wall of the chancel.

About 4 m. to the N. of Caerwent, upon the farm of Gaer Llwyd and in the parish of **Newchurch**, may be seen a very perfect cromlech, the only one in the county. The upper stone is about 12 ft. in length by about 3½ in breadth, and the supports vary in height from 4 to 5 ft. The slight trench around the whole may well be part of the embankment or barrow, supposed to have been thrown up over these prehistoric sepulchres. In the neighbouring parish of Llangwm is a large British camp called **Gaerfawr**. At the distance of 1½ m. to the E., upon Golden Hill, is another, called **Bryn**

Eurag, and 1 m. to the N.E. of Gaerfawr is yet another, said to be Danish, called **Cwrt-y-gaer**. This last is circular.

There are some inconsiderable remains of other fortresses in the neighbourhood. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the N. W. of Caerwent is **Dinham Castle**, of which there are but few vestiges, overgrown with wood.

Llanfair Castle, 2 m. from Caerwent, is prettily situated on the road to Usk across Wentwood Forest. It possesses a square and 2 round towers, blended with a farmhouse. On the stile at the entrance of the churchyard is the following quaint inscription:—

“Whoever hear on Sunday
Will Practis Playing at Ball,
It may be be Fore Monday
The Devil will Have you all.”

Proceeding 3 m. on the same road, the tourist will arrive at **Troggy** or **Striguil Castle** (so called in the Ordnance map, though the only “Striguil” Castle known in the records of the realm is Chepstow), E. of the r. Usk, and at the foot of Pen Cae Mawr, from whence there is a fine view of the vale of Usk. An octagon tower with arched windows is all that is left.

On the road to Newport, 3 m. from Caerwent, stands the well-known wayside inn of the Rock and Fountain, and opposite to it **Penhow Castle**, which, like Llanvair, has been turned into a farmhouse. A square embattled tower forms the principal remains. This was for many centuries the residence of the St. Maur or Seymour family.

Penced Castle lies between Penhow and Magor, 2 m. from each, overlooking Caldicot level, and is an old mansion of the date of Henry VIII., built from the materials of the castle, and possessing a gateway

with a circular arch, flanked by two narrow pentagon turrets, a round embattled tower, and parts of the ancient wall. It was long the seat of a branch of the Morgan family. It is evident that these and the many other petty castles with which this part of Monmouthshire is thickly studded, were built for the protection of Wentwood district, probably by the retainers and tenants of the Bohuns and the Clares.]

As the train glides over the flat marshes of Caldicot Level, on the l. is the Bristol Channel, bounded by the mountain limestone ridge between Bristol and Alveston, and on the rt. the prettily-wooded range of Wentwood Forest.

Caldicot Level is an extensive lowland tract defended from the inroads of the sea by a series of huge walls and dykes, which are under the control of an annually appointed “Court of Sewers” held at Newport.

10 m. **Magor Stat.** Here is a large handsome ch. (restored), having an E.E tower with Perp. alterations.

14 m. **Llanwern Stat.** On rt. is the plain little ch. of Llanwern and *Llanwern House*.

The suburb of Maindee is now passed, and the train glides over the railway bridge recently constructed across the Usk to

♂ **NEWPORT** (Rte. 4), a flourishing port on the rt. bank of the Usk, about 4 m. from its confluence with the Severn. The tide rises to a height of 40 ft. It enjoys a largely increasing traffic, owing to the great exportation of coal and iron from hence, its position being at the point where the busy and densely populated valleys of the Usk, Afon, Eddw, and Sirhowy rivers converge.

Cardiff, thanks to the late Lordute, had many years the start of Newport, but at last, under the leading of Sir G. Elliott, supported by the influence of Lord Tredegar, the powerful ground landlord, the Alexandra Dock was formed and the town has rapidly increased.

Newport has the advantage of possessing communication by 6 rlys., viz., the *South Wales* to London and Milford, the *Great Western* (by an improved route *via* Caerleon) to Hereford and the North of England, the *Monmouthshire*, now in the hands of the *Great Western*, to the ironworks in the neighbourhood, the *Irish* to Tredegar and the London and North-Western system, the *Brecon and Merthyr*, which gives connection with the Mid-Wales and the Pontyrridd, Caerphilly, and Newport running into the Rhondda valley. Bristol also is accessible by the Severn Tunnel Railway. A canal runs to Pontypool, Abergavenny and Brecon, while a second accompanies the Western Valleys Railway up to Trumlin. Steamers ply daily to Bristol in from 2 to 3 hrs., according to tide, and to Cork once a week. For the accommodation of large vessels which were prevented approaching the town from want of water, a large and commodious dock was opened in 1842, at an expense of 100,000*l.*, and having an area of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres. A still larger one, possessing an area of $7\frac{3}{4}$ acres, was opened in 1858, the old dock not being of sufficient extent for the rising commerce of the port.

In 1868, the **Alexandra Docks** were commenced on a scale adequate to the requirements of the place. They cover $28\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and were opened on the 12th of April, 1875, and a further extension is now in progress. A fine view of the town and St. Woollos Ch., backed up by the Blorenge and Twm Barlwm Mountains, is to be obtained from

the docks, which are situated in the district of Pillgwenly or Pill. Within the last few years the well-built suburb of Maindee has grown up on the opposite side of the river. Pop. about 45,000.

The town of Newport itself is much improved of late years, and now possesses several modern buildings of taste and interest, viz., the Town Hall, Free Library, new market, &c. The archæologist may pleasantly pass a day or two in exploring the neighbourhood.

The **Castle** stands upon the rt. bank of the Usk, between the bridge and the railway. Its river front is perfect; but almost all the rest, save some scanty walls and a couple of towers, is either destroyed or concealed by the building of a modern brewery. The present ruins are late Perp., with round-headed arches, well worthy of attention. It was founded by Robert Fitzhamon, the conqueror of Glamorgan, in the latter part of the 11th cent.; for the double purpose of defending the passage over the river, and to aid him in maintaining his recently acquired lordship. But the present building is the work of the Stafford family, who inherited the manor from the De Clares.

The **Ch. of St. Woollos** is interesting, both from its noble situation on Stow Hill, and its architecture. "No better or more typical Norm. interior on a moderate scale can be desired." It consists of a nave, two aisles, a chancel, and a quasi-military tower. The principal feature is the E.E. chapel of St. Mary, which contains some mutilated monuments, and is connected with the nave by a beautiful Romanesque door adorned with the Norm. ornaments of billet and chevron, and having this peculiarity, that the inner order rests upon a pair of large detached columns. The Ch. was restored in 1858. The view

from the ch.-yd. commands the river Usk, and the levels of Caldicot and Wentloog from Magor to the Rhymney; the Bristol Channel, and the counties on its opposite shore.

Some very scanty remains of a house of **White Friars**, consisting chiefly of fragmentary portions of the N. transept of the chapel, and a portion of an ambulatory, may be seen in a low, dirty district leading out of Commercial-street, called "Friars Fields."

Newport is famous for the attack made on the night of the 4th of Nov. 1839, by the Chartists, under the leadership of John Frost. The Mayor, the late Sir Thomas (then Mr.) Phillips, gallantly read the Riot Act from the windows of the Westgate Hotel, until a wound in the arm compelled him to desist and order the soldiers to fire on the mob, a proceeding which effectually dispersed the rabble. He received, what in his case was the well-deserved honour of knighthood, for his conduct on that occasion. Traces of the conflict are still to be seen in the pillars of the old porch which have been re-erected in the vestibule of the new Hotel.

Amongst the seats in the vicinage are:—Tredegar Park, The Friars, Llantarnam Abbey, Malpas Court, and St. Julian's, once the residence of Lord Herbert of Chirbury.

At **Goldcliffa**, 3 m. from Newport, near the mouth of the Usk, are the slight remains of a priory, founded in the early part of the 12th centy. The cliff itself contains near its base a course of mica—which, glittering in the sunlight, evidently obtained the name Goldcliff.

1½ m. from the town, near the Caerphilly road, is a very perfect camp, said to be Roman, and called "*the Gaer*." Upon the Wentloog Level (2 m. distance) is another encampment, believed to be Saxon.

[3 short m. up the rt. bank of the Usk, is the once famous city of **Caerleon** (the Isca Silurum of Antoninus), where the 2nd Augustan Legion was for years in garrison, once the capital of S. Wales, and the seat of the metropolitan see, but now a decayed village. Giraldus Cambrensis describes its theatres, temples, and palaces, though in a declining state, as far back as the 14th centy., in a pompous and doubtless considerably exaggerated style, which is not borne out by Henry of Huntingdon, who, half a century before, wrote that the walls were then scarcely to be seen. Its chief remains of antiquity are a Roman amphitheatre, which was probably open, and like that still preserved almost intact at Dorchester, and outside of and opposite to which is a field (outside the walls) still called the "Bear-House-Field," a souvenir of the animals then kept for the sports of the amphitheatre; a bank of earth heaped up in an oval form 16 ft. high, called Arthur's Round Table; some fragments of Roman wall, though not so perfect as at Caerwent; and an artificial mound 300 yds. in circumference. This mound is held to be an addition to the Roman works, and has all the character of a Saxon Burh, such as is seen at Cardiff and, until their removal, were to be seen at Hereford and Gloucester.

The Roman remains found here from time to time are most numerous. They have been figured and drawn by the late J. E. Lee, Esq., of the Priory, whose monograph, entitled '*Isca Silurum*,' is worthy of the fullest examination by antiquaries. A local **Museum** has been erected here by the instrumentality of the Caerleon Antiqu. Ass., which will well repay inspection. "Though not in themselves very important, these early relics of the first introduction of civilization

into the extremities of our island by Roman conquest must surely be interesting to any reflective mind. The mutilated records of the occupation of this remote station by the 2nd Augustan Legion—the commemoration of the rebuilding of their barracks—the restoration of their temple—the monuments of their officers, shewing them to have been established here with their wives and families—the *votive tablet inscribed to Fortune and happy events by the bride and bridegroom*, and sepulchral inscriptions of widows and children to deceased husbands and parents—the fragments of their household utensils—the needles and fibulæ of the ladies—the remains of their villas in the town and suburbs, with their tessellated floors and baths—the camp which exercised their discipline, and the amphitheatre which witnessed their sports,—all these bring before the mind's eye a vivid picture of the circumstances of the times which first destroyed the insulated separation of Britain from continental Europe, and admitted her within the sphere of the civilized world.”—(*W. D. C.*) The above extract gives a lively and, except in one clause, an accurate sketch of the objects of interest in the museum. It is now quite established that the *votive tablet to Fortune and “Bonus Eventus”* was owned by two husbands, and erected by their wives or widows.

The museum contains, besides, some very curious *votive* and sepulchral inscribed tablets, stone coffins, &c., &c., an important collection of earthen materials (Samian ware, pottery, cinerary urns, lamps, mortars, camp-moulds, *antefixa* (or roof-ornaments to answer the purpose of parapets), bricks, tiles, tessellated pavements), glass and enamel ornaments, bone and ivory carvings, objects in bronze and iron, rings, seals, counters, chairs, calculi, ligulæ or ladles, &c., in addition to remains from

the Roman villa that came to light during the excavations in the Castle grounds by the owner, the late Mr. John Jenkins, in which an interesting series of baths, flues, and drains was laid open.

A considerable number of sepulchral stones were discovered at **Bulmore**, a beautifully situated hamlet, rather more than a mile from Caerleon, on the old road to Caerwent, and on the l. bank of the Usk, proving that it was the residence of some family of note.

In Caerleon-ultra-Pontem, burial urns have been found; and, in fact, the whole neighbourhood teems with Roman remains.

The **Church** (restored) is Norman, and contains some good examples of round-arched architecture. A very interesting tessellated pavement was discovered during the restoration, as well as the fact revealed, that the site of the modern ch. was occupied by a building of much greater antiquity.

On one side of an arch a painted Greek cross was found, of vivid colouring, which, however, faded away considerably on exposure to the air. Some fragments of inscriptions, mentioned by Coxe, but long lost, were found at the same time in pulling down a house in the ch.-yd.

In the neighbourhood of Caerleon are several **Camps**, viz., at the Lodge Farm, 1 m. N.W.; at Penhow, on the road to Usk; and at St. Julian's Wood. The camp at the *Lodge* has been called by ancient antiquaries *Belingstocke*, and supposed to have been the *castrum æstivum* of the 2nd Augustan Legion. It was of an elliptical shape, with double ramparts, and with a western entrance, defended by a tumulus. It was probably a British fortress prior to its being made a Roman camp, and is said in the ‘*Myvyrian Archæology*’ to have been built by ‘*Belli*,

the son of Dyvynwal Moel Mud, and to have been called Caer Llion."

Underneath the Lodge Camp is **Pilbach Farm**, where villas, inscriptions and a tessellated pavement were found; and to the E., on the banks of the Afon Llwyd, is **Pont Sadwrn**, where stone coffins, with glass vessels and a so-called lachrymatory, were discovered.

In British times Caerleon still held an important place, as being the archiepiscopal see of the holy Dubritus, sometime Bishop of Llandaff, whose successor, St. David, afterwards moved his cathedral into the wild solitudes of Menevia (St. David's). The suburb on the opposite side of the Usk is still called **Ultra Pontem**, on the hill above which stands with fine effect the old tower of **Christchurch**, which has a fine peal of bells. In the interior is the monumental stone of St. Colmer, upon which persons were accustomed to repose all night on the eve of Trinity Sunday, in the hopes of being released from their infirmities. There are extensive tin-works at Caerleon, near the confluence of the Afon river with the Usk. Between this place and Newport, by the roadside, is *St. Julian's*, now a farmhouse, but once the abode of Lord Herbert of Cherbury. The armorial bearings of his predecessors, whose heiress he married, remain over the entrance.]

Soon after leaving Newport, is on the rt. **Tredegar Park**, the residence of Lord Tredegar. The house, a large red-brick building, the work of Inigo Jones, is situated on a flat, but on the edge of a prettily undulating park, through which the Ebbw river flows. The approach is by avenues of noble chestnuts. One room, called the Oak-room, floored with planks made from a single tree, is 42 ft. by 27. The Western Valley Railway runs through the park on

its way to Ebbwvale and Nantyglo (Rte. 7).

Lord Tredegar, whose sire, the first peer, was formerly known in Wales as Sir Charles Morgan, represents in the female line the great Monmouthshire family of Morgan, and thus inherits very large estates in Glamorgan, Monmouth, Brecon, and London. He is also landlord of the well-known Tredegar works.

The traveller is now in the ancient province of Nether Gwent, and the line, crossing the Ebbw, is carried across a large alluvial marsh, the continuation of the Caldicot Level, known as the **Wentloog Level**. These flats extend as far as Cardiff, on an average about 2 to 3 m. wide, and are defended from the sea by a bank of very high antiquity. On the rt. the old red and limestone hills, which form the S. border of the South Wales coalfield, are a prominent feature, and it is evident that they were at one time the barrier cliffs against the sea, which washed their bases and covered these alluvial lands.

22 m. **Marshfield Stat.**

[On rt. (2 m.), is **St. Mellon's**, a fine old church of the 14th centy., built on the ruins of a former Norman edifice. It possesses a peculiar lopsided chancel, and has met with full commemoration in a paper by Mr. Freeman, in the 3rd vol. of the 3rd series of 'Arch. Cambr.']

1½ m. N.W. of St. Mellon's, on the opposite side of the Rhymney, is **Cefn Mabley** (Col. Kemys-Tynte), a curious old house of that family.

Further N. of Cefn Mabley is **Rusperra** (Hon. F. Morgan), reputed, on very slender evidence, the work of Inigo Jones. It commands an extensive view of the Severn and Somersetshire hills. There is a moated mound in the park, and another not far off at Castleton.]

Soon afterwards the **Rhymney** river is crossed, the boundary between England and Wales, Monmouth and Glamorgan. The traveller now leaves the village and ch. of *Rhymney* on rt., and obtains a good view on l. of Penarth Head and the forests of masts betokening the approach to

♂ **Cardiff** (Caer-tiff, from *Tibia Amnis*, or perhaps “Caer” “Dyf,” *i. e.* Taff), the old county town of Glamorgan, a distinction now shared with Swansea. It stands on the l. bank of the Taff, 2 m. above its opening, in common with the Ely, under the headland and roadstead of Penarth.

Cardiff is now by far the most important town in the Principality, and, in spite of serious natural disadvantages as a harbour, has become one of the first commercial ports in the world, over 25,000 vessels entering and clearing from the port each year. Cardiff, in regard to exports, surpasses both London and Liverpool, and is only slightly surpassed by New York. In the rapidity of its growth, the cosmopolitan character, and, one may add, the public spirit and enterprise of its inhabitants, it nearly resembles the Western cities of America.

Pop. in 1801	1,018
„ in 1851	18,351
„ in 1881	85,378

Now (1889) the population is estimated at 125,000, that is to say, an increase of 50 per cent. since the last census! The rateable value of the town has more than doubled itself in the last ten years, and there is at present no sign of any check to this prodigious growth of population and wealth. This development is due to its being the principal outlet of the mineral produce, coal and iron, of the Taff, Rhymney, and their tributary valleys, brought hither by its canal and railways,

and attracted by its magnificent docks. The Glamorganshire Canal, from Merthyr and Aberdare, opened 1794, communicates with the sea by a sea-lock 103 ft. long and 13 ft. deep on the sill, at the Taff. This, having been found insufficient, was reinforced in 1840 by the Taff Vale Railway, by which a great portion of the coal and iron traffic is now carried (Rte. 15). The Rhymney Railway, opened 1858, leaves Cardiff upon the Taff Vale rails, and diverges from it at Walnut-tree Bridge to pass into the valley of the Rhymney (Rte. 14). The *Bute Docks*, opened in 1839, were completed in 1859. This noble work was projected by the late Marquis of Bute, who, with a prescience only rivalled by that of the great Duke of Bridgwater, staked his whole estate upon the undertaking, and lived to see about half of it completed. Since his death the works have been carried on, still at the expense of the estate, in the first instance by trustees and subsequently by his son, the present Marquis, and have been completed at an outlay of probably not less than a million sterling. The West Dock, the one first opened, has sea-gates of 45 ft. opening; depth on the sill at springs 28 ft. 8½ in.; at neaps 18 ft. 7½ in.; and a lock 152 ft. long by 36 ft. broad: the area of basin is upwards of 18 acres, and the length of quays 8000 ft. The East Dock has gates of 55 ft. opening; depth on sill 31 ft. 8½ in. and 21 ft. 7 in.; with an outer lock 220 ft. by 55 ft., and an inner lock 200 ft. by 50 ft. The area of this basin is 46 acres, depth 25 ft., breadth 300 ft. and 500 ft., and length of quays 9100 ft.

Encouraged by the success which has attended the Bute Docks, a company was formed to create the rival establishment of the Penarth Harbour and Docks, covering an area of 26 acres at the mouth of the Ely. To these have been added the Roath

Basin and Dock (45 acres) and the Barry Basin and Dock (87 acres). The exports in coal from Cardiff, which in 1851 amounted to 740,159 tons, had grown in 1888 to the enormous figure of 8,750,000. Cardiff is the depôt of the smokeless coal for the navy. The effect of all this trade has been a corresponding increase of Cardiff. Not only has a complete town sprung up about the docks, but crowded suburbs have risen towards Roath and Maindy, at Penarth, Canton, and along the road to Llandaff. In 1801 there were 327 houses in Cardiff, in 1888 there were said to be 17,500. In the breadth of its streets, and the comparative cleanliness and openness of its thoroughfares, it is certainly far ahead of Swansea or Newport.

As a contrast to the present busy activity, it is interesting to recall a view of the town towards the close of the last centy:—

“The port was held to be in extreme activity, when the comparatively scanty supply of iron was brought down from the hills in waggons, each carrying two tons, and attended to by a man and a boy. Even Mr. Bacon’s contract guns in the American war were thus conveyed for embarkation to the side of the Gwlad Quay, which, from that circumstance, was for some time afterwards known as the ‘Cannon Wharf,’ though that name has long been lost; and it is a proof of the growth of the town since that time, that the guns used to be proved from the street before this quay against the earth-bank of the south wall across the end of the street, there being no houses beyond the then gate called Porth-Llongy. Coals were at the same time brought chiefly from Caerphilly Mountain, in bags weighing from 100 to 130 lbs., on horses, mules, and asses, with a woman or lad driving two or three of them. This was principally done in fine weather, for it was customary to avoid the incidental delays of frost, snow, or bad weather, by bringing in the winter

stock at a particular time, and this provident collecting was called a Cym-morth, from a Welsh word signifying help or assistance.”—*Smyth*.

Until of late years Cardiff only possessed 1 ch. (that of St. Mary’s, mentioned by Speed as being in danger, having been washed away by the Taff in 1607): a later *St. Mary’s*, built in 1842, deserves but little notice.

St. John’s, the parish ch. of the greater part of the old town, is situate in Church-street, which is at right angles to High-street, and is [within an easy walk of the G. W. R. Stat. and the Castle. It has a noble Perp. tower of great height, with handsome open battlements and pinnacles, which form a conspicuous object in the surrounding scenery. The W. door is decorated with a nail-head moulding; and within are 2 curious altar-tombs, with effigies and canopies, in honour of Sir William and Sir John Herbert; the ruins of whose seat, the White Friars, are still seen in the Sophia Garden, one of the various public parks of the town of Cardiff.

The Castle (Marq. of Bute). It has always been supposed that Cardiff (Caer Tibia) was the site of a Roman station, but of this, till quite recently, there was no material evidence. The main feature of the Castle is a broad and lofty earth-bank, forming nearly three sides of a rectangular area expanding into a mound at its S.E. angle, and containing near to its N.W. angle a large conical flat-topped mound, detached from the bank and with its own moat—in fact, a Saxon Burh. The earth banks were also moated outside. On the W. and contiguous half of the S. side, where the bank is wanting, it is replaced by a wall 40ft. high and 10ft. thick, quite plain and without buttresses, and

The mound is covered by a polygonal shell keep of late Norm. date. Upon the wall at the entrance to the court is a square tower of E. E. date, called Duke Robert's tower, from an absurd tradition that the eldest son of the conqueror, who was a prisoner at Cardiff, was here shut up. In the centre of the W. side is the main block of the Castle buildings, many

Dec. date, though with a later vaulted cellar. The fine octangular tower is the work of Rich. Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, who became possessed of the Castle by marriage with the heiress of the Despensers.

Formerly a strong wall, lying N. and S., crossed the court and connected Robert's tower with the mound and keep, crossing the inner ward which was walled, and leaving the E. part of the court as an outer ward protected only by the earthwork and moat, and probably a blockade upon the former. In this outer ward stood the Shire Hall, a chapel and lodgings occupied by the principal tenants who held of the castle by military service, and here resided when on duty. The cross wall has long been destroyed and the deep-moat filled up, but Lord Bute has disinterred the foundations of the wall, reopened the moat and laid bare the piles of a draw-bridge, the castle-well and the base of the flight of steps which give access to the keep. These have been carefully stored. Other additions, as a tower at the S.W. angle, have been made and the interior much embellished by the present owner. The tail is by Burgess, and is much admired.

Looking to the figure of the earthworks, it was evident that the place was after a Roman pattern, but as the Romans usually walled their permanent stations, and seldom threw up earthworks of such size, it was supposed that these were designed on Roman lines, or by men who had some knowledge of Roman castrame-

tation. The mound was evidently Saxon, and probably of the 8th cent. Recently, however, in digging foundations for a new N. gate to the town, Lord Bute cut into the adjacent bank, and within its centre came up the lower 10 or 12 ft. of a ruined wall 10 ft. thick, having polygonal buttresses, and in fact a very evident Roman work. The enigma was thus solved. The Roman station was on the site of the Castle and was walled. On the departure of the Romans, probably during the Welsh and Saxon struggles, the wall was ruined. When the Saxons got the upper hand they did not rebuild the wall, but buried it in a bank of earth and threw up a Burh. The same thing may be seen at York, and would probably appear at Wareham, Tamworth, and Hereford, all places where there were heavy earthworks on a rectangular plan and where there is or was a Burh.

When the Normans came, they, like the Romans, preferred walls to earthworks, but they utilized the Burh by placing upon it a shell keep, but cut away the W. and half of the S. bank, replaced them by a wall, and by an addition within made an almost impregnable inner ward. The subject is full of interest, and the recent discovery far surpasses anything of the kind that has hitherto been found.

"The Castle of Cardiff, though not unknown to border fame, has been the theatre of no great historical event. . . its claim to more than local interest rests upon the character and fortunes of the great Barons whose inheritance and occasional residence it was from the 11th to the 15th cent., from the reign of Rufus to that of Hen. VI."—*G. T. Clark*. It was won for the Normans about 1090 by Robert Fitz Hamon, lord of the Honour of Gloucester, and was by him made the "Caput" of the territory of Morgan and Glamorgan which he and his fol-

lowers had wrested from the Welsh. About this conquest much legendary matter has been written and is still current: but it is plain that, whatever the immediate pretext, it was part of a settled policy which was carried out all through S. Wales about the same time. The heiress of Fitz Hamon conveyed the castle with the seignory of Glamorgan to Robert Consul, bastard son of Henry I., and probably the builder of the Norm. portion of the Castle. Through their grand-daughter the Honour of Gloucester and the Castle of Cardiff passed to the great house of De Clare by whom it was held for nearly a century. Another heiress transferred it to the Despencers, who had possession for another century. This line ended in an heiress with whom the Castle passed in the beginning of the 15th cent. to the Beauchamps and through Anne, daughter of the "King Maker," to Richard III. After his death it remained, with a short interval, in the Crown, until Edward VI. sold it with its manorial rights to William Herbert the 1st Earl of Pembroke of that name, through whose heirs it has devolved upon the present owner. During the civil war it was alternately in the possession of either party. Staunchly loyal, it held out for the king till treason from within opened the gates to Cromwell, who hanged the traitors. In 1642 the Marquis of Hertford recovered it for the king, but it was shortly retaken. In 1647 Colonel Prichard, a Roundhead, refused to surrender it to the Royalist, Major-General Henry Stradling. The ramparts are most tastefully planted with creepers and evergreens, and the public are freely admitted.

A short distance E. of the castle are the scanty remains of the *Friary*, long the seat of the Herberts. They are situated within and to the rt. of the entrance-gates of a pretty garden

and walks, known as the *Sophie Park*, which have been made on the W. side of the river, just across the bridge, by Lady Bute, for the use of the townspeople. A statue of the late Lord Bute nearly faces the Castle gateway. Cardiff possesses some handsome buildings—such as the *Town Hall*, a Library and Museum, &c.

In 1883 after a strenuous contest with Swansea, Cardiff was selected as the site for the University College of S. Wales and Monmouthshire. The College was opened in 1883 in temporary buildings not far from the Taff Vale and Rhymney Rly. Stats. It is governed by a royal charter and receives a Government grant of £4000 a year. The number of students matriculated since 1883 is 520; in the session 1888–89 the number in attendance was 164. The College is particularly strong in its scientific and technological departments. In consequence of a munificent gift of the Drapers' Company a chair of mechanical engineering is about to be founded. The fees for all the College lectures may be compounded for by the student at the extraordinary low figure of 10*l.* a year. The College Library contains a unique collection of books in Welsh or on Welsh subjects numbering nearly 20,000 vols.

‡ **Penarth** should be visited, either by omnibus or steamer from the dock, which plies to and fro twice or thrice in every hour, partly for the fine scenery of Penarth Head and partly for the *Docks*, which have been executed at a very heavy outlay, and are connected with the Taff Vale Rly. by a line 4 m. in length, the junction taking place beyond Llan-daff. A very pretty *Church* has been built at Penarth by the late Baroness Windsor, at a cost of 8000*l.* It is E. pointed, of cruciform shape and foreign type, with a tower and saddle-back roof, 90 ft. high. The design

ere by *Butterfield*. From the high round beyond the ch. the visitor looks over the Bristol Channel upon Weston and Clevedon, and the Flatolmes and Steepholme are conspicuous midway in the waters.

Leaving Cardiff station, the railway crosses the Taff and the alluvial flats of Leckwith, having Penarth lead to the l. and *Canton*, with its new ch., to the rt.

31 m. *Ely Stat.* 1 m. on rt. is *Llandaff Cathedral*, which has gradually but steadily risen from the in and desolation of ages. It is faced upon the rt. bank of the Taff, and at the foot of a steep slope, upon and above which stands the ancient, its fast increasing village, the mular city of Llandaff, and centre of the parish, with a population of 96 at the last census. The situation is one of uncommon beauty. The broad river ripples over a pebbly bed, fringed with overhanging alders, and winds its way across the tile meadows that first attracted the Norman spoiler. The sheltering hill boasts several fine trees, while the side is thickly studded with trees, and its crest is crowned by the old-world village street, with the ruins of the Bishop's fortified palace, and its cross, probably the spot where the crusade was preached in 1187 by Archb. Baldwin, the Papal Legate, attended by his chaplain, Giraldus Cambrensis, archdeacon of Brecknock, in the time of William Saltmarsh, Bishop of Llandaff. As in the vicinity of St. Asaph, so in that of this S. Welsh cathedral, villas are springing up under the shadow of the church, and the town of Cardiff is drawing dangerously close to the pleasant meadows and meadows that surround the cathedral city.

Llandaff is a place of high antiquity, and, putting aside the tradition of [S. Wales.]

the building of its earliest church by the shadowy British King Lucius, who is said to have applied to Pope Eleutherius to send over missionaries circa 180 A.D., it was certainly the seat of one of the earliest British Bishops. The first Bishops were Dubritius, the apparent founder of the See, who resigned some time before his death, which is variously attributed to 512 and 522 A.D. (even 612 A.D. by the chronicler in the 'Liber Landavensis,' but this date is difficult to reconcile with other events), and Teilo or Eliud, said to have died 540 A.D.

The dedication of the earliest church at Llandaff is a matter of some doubt. The three earliest Bishops, Dubritius, Teilo and Oudoceus, were considered the three patrons of Llandaff, but in accordance with the custom of the Welsh Church, the church and diocese of Llandaff usually bore the name of its principal founder S. Teilo. According to the earliest records gifts to the church appear to have been made to "God and S. Teilo," on whose tomb solemn oaths were taken. With regard to the existing Cathedral, Bishop Urban is said to have built it in honour of "the Apostle Peter and the holy confessors Dubritius, Teilo, and Oudoceus;" but in a grant of an advowson later on to the chapter it is called the church of SS. Peter and Paul [Browne Willis, p. 163], and so its dedication is now generally considered to have been. S. Teilo's remarkable sanctity was attested ('Liber Landavensis') by the miraculous triplication of his mortal parts. Three churches, viz. Llandaff, Llandeilo, and Penally, near Tenby, having each laid claim to the honour of receiving the saint's bones, agreed to settle the point by praying him to reveal the secret; whereupon, with a policy which cannot be too much admired, three distinct but exactly similar bodies appeared to the supplicating

churches, each one of whom bore off his remains in triumph. According to some writers, however, Llandaff was not created a separate bishopric until after St. David had removed the archiepiscopal see from Caerleon, in which tradition represents him as succeeding Dubritius, to Menevia, when Teilo, who was afterwards canonized, was consecrated its first bishop. The first Bishop under Norman influences, known as Urban, but probably a Welshman from his name Gwrgant, consecrated 1108, commenced the present cathedral in 1120, which was completed by his successors down to Bishop Marshall. The church which Urban found existing was very small, and its entire length *cum porticu* (perhaps an eastern apse) did not exceed 40 ft. In the Early English period the ch. was extended westward as far as the present W. front; the chapter-house, also E. E., having been built somewhat later. The Lady Chapel was added about 1265-87, and was of the first Dec. period, whilst the remodelling of the presbytery, and the walls of the aisles, in choir and nave, belong to the second. The Perp. N.W. tower was built by Jasper Tudor, Henry VII.'s uncle.—*King*. Bishop Godwin writes: "At the end of the 7th centy. so much riches had been bestowed on Llandaff, that, if it enjoyed a tenth part of that which it had been endowed with, it would be one of the richest churches in Christendom." There is doubtless some exaggeration in this statement, but at any rate the see was utterly impoverished at and soon after the Reformation. Holinshed says: "Certes it is a poore bishopricke, and (as I have heard) the late inauument thereof being called for not long since by the Lord President in open Court, made answer. 'The Taffe is here, but the land is gone.'" At the end of the 17th centy. the gross value of the Bishop's revenues was 230*l.* according to

Bishop Beau, who adds that after deductions there was "nothing more of them than would defray the charges of the quantity of vinegar, pepper, salt, and fire spent in my house," and the prebends he estimated as worth 2*l.* apiece. About 1717 the S. tower was "open within from the top to the bottom. In 1720 part of the N. tower followed suit, and by 1723 the ruin of the west end was complete. About that period a proposition was entertained of moving the see to Cardiff.

The only remaining portions of Bishop Urban's Norm. ch. now standing, are the massive Norm. arch dividing the presbytery from the Lady Chapel, a Norm. wall, and portions of two Norm. windows cut into by the present decorated pier. It is to the small size of this ch. that much of the singularity of the present building is owing, for since this time it had never been rebuilt. It has been lengthened, widened, and heightened, but the early Norm. ch. formed the nucleus round which the later additions rose.

The 18th centy. saw Llandaff in its worst and most lamentable state of neglect and decay—its aisle were roofless, grass grew in the nave and the ivy over its windows—the climax being reached when a severe storm blew down the S.W. tower and a great portion of the nave. The choir service, which had for some time ceased to be performed, was then removed into the Lady Chapel. In 1730, however, the sum of 7000*l.* was collected for the purpose of preventing the whole building from going to ruin; and, under the guidance of Mr. Wood, a Bath architect, the Cathedral was made to assume an aspect between a dissenting chapel and a lecture-room, a quasi-Italian temple occupying presbytery, choir, and part of the nave. The Cathedral was spared the crowning insult of a new West front to match (of which a sketch is given

p. 10 of Mr. King's 'Handbook to the Welsh Cathedrals'), by a provincial failure of funds. In 1836, Rev. H. Douglas, the then rector, gave up his salary as a commencement of a fund for the restoration in a legitimate manner; and at the appointment, by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, of an Bruce Knight (the office having been vacant since the death of Brother Esni, the last Dean, in 1820), the works were vigorously begun in 1844, and carried on still more in earnest by his successor, Mr. Conybeare, who utterly effaced the Italian temple. The restoration was entrusted to Mr. Pritchard, the ecclesian architect, who was in the chief portion of the work associated with Mr. Seddon; and it must be allowed, that it has been carried out with great caution and good taste. Between 1846-57, 9000*l.* was expended in the restoration of the Lady Chapel, presbytery, clerestory, and the choir and nave, and in the interior work; while those portions of the building which it was intended then to renovate were judiciously secured and strengthened. The opening of the Cathedral for public worship and for moral services, which had been suspended since 1691, gave a fresh impetus to the subscription list, and by the energy and eloquence of the late Dean Williams further improvements were carried out. The Italian wall which Mr. Wood's bad taste had placed across the nave was removed, the W. front restored, the western bays and the side aisles rebuilt, and the chapter-house brought into its former condition. A final and no less successful deal was made by the Dean for the rebuilding of the S.W. tower with its spire, according to the original plan, and the restoring of the W. tower of Jasper Tudor with its crowning pinnacles. This expense of 8000*l.* was met by fresh

subscriptions, and a grant from the Commissioners of 5000*l.*; and the whole was finished in 1869. The apathy and carelessness of former bishops and chaplains, as well as of the wealthy inhabitants of the county, have been nobly redeemed, and Llandaff Cathedral is now the pride, instead of the disgrace, of the diocese.

As it at present stands, the "Church on the Taff," as the name imports in English, consists of nave, aisles, choir, Lady Chapel, chapter-house, and two towers at the W. end. As the whole body of the church is open, a beautiful effect is produced from the W. door—a fine round-headed E. E. door with a central pendant, and a figure of a bishop, said to represent St. Teilo, in a vesica in the tympanum. The W. front, which in its general arrangement is very like the Cathedral of St. Remigius or Rheims, in France, as it was before a restoration of recent date, is an exquisite specimen of the Pointed style. Mr. King likens its design to that of the W. front of Ripon Cathedral, which is much larger and grander, but inferior in grace and variety of arrangement.

In the 2nd story are a central and 2 smaller side windows, which, with their intermediate piers, are faced by an arcade of 5 lancet arches, resting on their shafts and set off with E. E. moulding.

The top story presents an early Pointed arcade, rising to the centre, so as to correspond with the gable, in which is an image of Our Lord in glory, with the right hand upraised in benediction, the left supporting the Book of Life. A very similar figure in bronze may be seen on the old cover of the 'Liber Landavensis,' now in possession of P. B. Davies-Cooke, Esq., Owston Park, Doncaster. The Lady Chapel is constructed in the variety of early Dec. which the late Dean Conybeare designated Tangential from the style.

of the windows, viz., lancets of two lights, supporting a circle on the backs of their arches. Unlike the rest of the Cathedral, the Lady Chapel has a stone vault.

The nave and W. half of the choir are pure but peculiar E. E., belonging to the first half of the 13th centy.; the pier shafts have a slightly elliptical section, and the foliage of the capitals is liliaceous.

The S.W. and N.W. doors in the aisles may be referred to about 1160, and are fine specimens of late Norm., the former being most rich in decoration, and having a moulding resembling an Etruscan scroll; the latter is surmounted by a dog-tooth moulding, and is a valuable example of the E. E. feature combined with decided Norm. Both from style and position, it is improbable that these doors belonged to the old Norm. ch., which did not extend so far, but terminated one bay W. of the present choir arch. The smaller portals eastward in each aisle are Decorated.

The chapter-house, attached to the S. side of the ch., is of the Transition style from Norm. to E. E., and consists of 2 stories, the lowest of which has a vaulted roof, springing from a cylindrical column; it is lighted by narrow trefoil windows. The upper story has been rebuilt in an octangular form with an octangular conical roof, crowned with a figure of the Archangel Gabriel.

The arch from the choir into the Lady Chapel is a splendid Norm. example, and was the work of Bishop Urban, who presided over the see in 1120. It will be worth while to compare it with the arch from the choir into the ambulatory beyond it in the neighbouring cathedral of Hereford, which may have influenced the builders of Llandaff, begun shortly after Hereford was completed.

The side walls of the choir or presbytery are also Norm., although pointed arches of the 12th centy.

were afterwards added; and in the S. wall a curious appearance is presented by an interpolated pointed arch intersecting an original Norm. window. That the same additions were made to the N. wall was clear from the fact that, during the restoration, a Norm. stringcourse was discovered running along it. The presbytery, or choir, presents the most beautiful appearance from the chasteness of the execution and the richness of the carving, particularly conspicuous in the Norm. arch in front of the Lady Chapel, with its rich exterior moulding consisting of circlelets dotted with round studs and enclosing eight flower-petals turned inwards; in the reredos of Caistone, with side shafts of polished marble, behind the high altar, the arches of which have been filled with three original pictures representing David as king and shepherd, and the Nativity, by Dante Gabriel Rossetti; and in the sedilia, with their highly enriched canopies. The font is signed by Seddon, representing subjects from the history of Noah, and the pulpit, with designs by Woolfe of Moses, David, John the Baptist, and S. Paul, are well worth attention. The mediæval reredos, which was found on removing the stucco of the Italian temple, being too far gone for repair, has been carefully preserved in the N. presbytery aisle.

The wood carving of the Bishop's throne, and the stalls for the chapter and choir, are extremely good and well worthy of careful examination. The organ, a fine one, by Gray and Davidson is placed on the N. of the choir. It is decorated with wood and figures illustrative of the Beatitudes.

There are some good monuments in the ch., though sadly mutilated. The reputed tomb of Teilo, the effigy now existing thereon being of a decorated character, is by the sedilia on the S. of the presbytery. Before this tomb it used to be the custom

people making purchases of land, giving gifts to the church, to swear their bargain. This tomb was opened in 1736, and a contemporaneous record was found on the wall in 1850, stating that certain relics were found therein. That of St. Britius, whose relics were replaced by Urban, was placed by tradition nearly opposite that of Teilo, but the effigy, possibly of even date with the latter, is now placed in the N. aisle, where are also to be seen those of Bishops Bromfield, 1393, and Marshall, 1496; an emaciated figure under a winding-sheet; Sir William Mathew of Radyr, ancestor of the Earls of Llandaff, and his wife 128-30. Also a beautiful modern monument to Henry Thomas, Esq., of Llwynmadoc, in Breconshire, for years Chairman of Glamorganshire Quarter Sessions. The design is by Richard, the figures by Armstead. At the extreme E. end we find the effigies of Sir David Mathew, standard-bearer to King Edward IV., and of Christopher Mathew, a knight of ancient stature, and his wife, 1500. In the S. aisle is an effigy of a Bishop unknown, a large slab with a trefoiled cross and much worn inscription in Norm. French, and at the extreme E. end an effigy of Lady Audley in a long robe, and close muffler, with two monks bearing escutcheons on either feet. In the Lady Chapel on the N. side of the altar is the effigy of Bishop William de Bruce (variously dated), 1287, and on the wall a Brass memorial of Bishop Copleston, 149.

A curious painting on boards, which formed part of Bishop Marshall's throne, was discovered during the restoration, and placed in the Bishop's palace. It represents the Virgin ascending through the starry firmament supported by angels. One kneels in play on musical instruments, while one holds an escutcheon with the arms of the Bishop and See. The Bishop is on the right, with a

scroll proceeding from his mouth bearing the words, "O Virgo scandens, sis Marshall coelica pandens." And further, in order to preserve some memorial of the vicissitudes of the past, the wooden pilasters and cornices of the Italian temple were placed in the Bishop's Library, and in the garden the two urns which adorned its W. end, with a Latin inscription by Bishop Ollivant, as well as the original cross from the W. gable, and other relics.

The N.W. tower is said to have been built by Jasper Tudor, Duke of Bedford, who received from Henry VII. the lordship of Glamorgan, and died childless 1495. It is Perpendicular, and crowned with an open-worked parapet with rich pinnacles, like that of St. John's, Cardiff. Three of the angles have turrets of uniform design, and the fourth, in which is the staircase, has a short spire.

The S.W. tower was the last and almost the most important work of the whole restoration; for as nothing of the old one, blown down in a storm, remained, the architect had to create as well as build a new one. It is of Dundry and Campden stone, and consists of a massive tower with buttresses at the W., S.W., and S.E. angles, terminating in open canopies with pyramidal roofs, each canopy containing a figure, viz., St. Peter, St. Paul, and the late Dr. Ollivant, during whose episcopate the finishing stroke was given to the work. Connecting the tower with the roof of the S. aisle is a range of arches, filled with seated figures of the Apostles. The tower and spire rise to a height of 195 ft. 7 in. The tower is 104 ft. in height, and is of 3 stories, the uppermost being the belfry, the windows in which are flanked by niches filled with figures representing all nations. "Above the arches of these windows protrude in watchful attitude the heads of those men who have most distinguished themselves in the conver-

sion of the nations over the types of which they are placed." The modern stained-glass in the Cathedral is of various merit; that of Morris and Marshall attracting deservedly the most attention. It is much to be desired that the wealthy county of Glamorgan should put a finishing touch to this great restoration by subscribing for a new West window, the completion of the figures in the canopies of the stalls, the building of the flèche to break the length of roof, together with a few lesser details. A large sum is also required to make the ancient W. end thoroughly secure, for the present (1889) condition of the supports of the old N.W. tower is such as to cause great anxiety.

A single shaft raised upon steps, composed in part of Dundry stone, and in part of that of St. Donat's, marks the grave of Dean Conybeare, and an Irish cross of new Radyr stone that of Bishop Ollivant. On the picturesque slope above the cathedral stood formerly the 13th centy. Campanile, or Bell-tower, of which but fragments remain. Hard by, the new Deanery and Canons' residence have been built.

One residentiary house at present suffices for the four canons, three months about. Similar modern houses have been built for the officiating clergy, for the schools, and for the Probate registrar's office. A valuable and extensive library was formerly attached to the cathedral; but the books and MSS. having been removed, with many other treasures of equal value, for security to Cardiff Castle during the civil war, were wantonly destroyed by the fanatical Puritan soldiery upon the fall of that stronghold. The Chapter, however, is now in possession of the greater part of the library of the late Bp. Ollivant. At the end of the village are the ruins of the **Bishop's Palace**, said to have been spoiled by Owain Glyndwr. The gatehouse is

tolerably perfect, and is the entrance to the Bishop's residence and garden. The chapel was erected in Bp. Ollivant's time by *Christian*. The village contains vestiges of several ancient buildings. A girls' **College**, named *Howell's Charity*, erected in a commanding situation on the Cardiff road, affords maintenance and education for 30 foundationers, besides 30 paying boarders and day scholars, from moneys bequeathed in the reign of Henry VII. to the Drapers' Company to provide marriage portions for the testator's female descendants. There is a similar building at Denbigh, giving the same advantages to North Wales.

Some way from Ely st. on Lechlwyd with Hill above the r. or western bank of the river Ely, is the ancient ch. of Landough.

Close around Llandaff are Roodwood (Col. F. E. Hill), Fairwater (E. W. David, Esq.), and the noble and conspicuous mansion of J. I. Insole, Esq., a large colliery proprietor. A mile to the N.W. is Radyr, once the seat of the ancient family of Mathew.

[8 m. on l. of Ely St. is Sully House (Lord Wimborne). The late eminent geologist, Dean Conybeare, was for many years resident rector of Sully.

Sully Island is of small area, containing probably the smallest canon in Britain. In the church, which is much modernised, are the monuments of the family of Thomas Llwyn-madoc, and an E. E. piscina. Near it is a fragment of the castle also of E. E. date.

At **Cogan Pill**, between Sully and Cardiff, is an old house, the seat of the Herberts of Cogan.

1 m. l., on a hill, is **Caeran Church** standing in the enclosure of a camp whence its name is derived. Some have placed here the "Tibia Annæ"

of the Itineraries, though it seems difficult to understand why it should not have been at Cardiff. Beyond, 2 m. further, is **Court-yr-alla** (Lieut.-Col. Rous), corrupted from Court-raleigh, it having long been a seat of the Raleighs of Nettlecombe. Near it are the ruins of **Dinas Powis Castle**, built by Iestyn ap Gwrgant *cir.* 1000 A.D. They are the property of the Rev. H. T. Lee, of the Mount.]

33 m. **St. Fagan's Stat.** On rt. the castle, church, and village crown a steep bank, at the bottom of which runs the Ely (Afon-lai, slow river).

The **Castle** (Lord Windsor) was built in the 12th centy. by Sir Peter de Vele, and the present picturesque high-gabled square house placed within its court by the Gibbon family, from whom it came to the Lewises of the Van, of whom the present owner is representative. The church and village were almost rebuilt by the late Hon. R. H. Clive, whose son, the Hon. Robert Windsor Clive, the father of the present Lord Windsor, died in the midst of completing his sire's good work of restoration here. The designs are by Street, and the painted glass is very good.

At the **battle** of St. Fagan's the Welsh insurgents, presbyterians and royalists, to the number of 8000, who had risen to resist the growing power of the Independents, were defeated with great loss (1648) by Col. Horton, when many out of the best Glamorganshire families were killed.

[2 m. l. **Coedriglan**, the seat of the late Rev. J. M. Traherne, whose collections for the history of Glamorgan are reported to be very extensive.

3½ m. l. **Wenvoe** (R. Jenner, Esq.), a modern house, built by the Thomas family on the site of an old castle.

7 m. l. **Barry Castle and Island**,

the former in ruins. The latter is accessible at low water, and presents a fine sandy bay and some good sections of the magnesian and mountain limestone, &c.

8 m. l. **Porthkerry** (the Romilly family), above a valley of exceeding beauty, opening out into the sea.

4 m. l. **Dyffryn** (A. C. Bruce Pryce, Esq.); and at **St. Nicholas**, hard by, is a cromlech, sometimes called Castell Corrig, and considered to be the largest in Britain. The capstone of this cromlech at its utmost length is 22 ft. 9 in. by 15 ft. 3 in. wide, and 3 ft. 6 in. thick, supported at the E. end by 3 props: the 1st measuring 5 ft. 5 in. in height by 2 ft. 9 in. wide; the 2nd, 3 ft. 5 in. by 6 ft. 8 in. wide; the 3rd, 3 ft. 4 in. by 4 ft. 10 in. The W. end is supported by one prop, 11 ft. 8 in. wide by 2 ft. 10 in. high, and the N. end by one prop also, 13 ft. 8 in. wide by 5 ft. high. The remains of the original mound are still visible. There is a second cromlech known as St. Lythan's Cromlech, or Maes y Felin, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile off on the opposite side of the road to Dyffryn Lower Lodge, of very remarkable dimensions. Mr. Lukis, in a paper of the 'Arch. Cambrensis' for 1875 (p. 171 foll.), gives them as follows: Height to top of capstone, 11 ft. 8 in.; length, 14 ft. 8 in. by 10 ft., and 2 ft. 6 in. thickness. Height of S. prop, 9 ft. 11 in. by 11 ft. 6 in., and 1 ft. 6 in. in thickness. The N. prop is 9 ft. 10 in. high, by 10 ft. wide, and 1 ft. 9 in. thick. The western prop is 7 ft. 6 in. high by 4 ft. 8 in. thick, and has a circular hole near the top. A third cromlech is near Cotterell: the names of places in the neighbourhood favour the Druidical theory. Thus Dyffryn Golych is the Valley of Worship, Cotterell a corruption of Coed-yr-Hoel, &c. These cromlechs, with Arthur's Stone in Gower, represent the chief prehistoric monuments in Glamorganshire. At St.

Lythan's is a curious little ch., with monuments to the Button family.

9 m. l. **Fonmon Castle** (O. H. Jones, Esq.) was built by Sir John de St. John soon after the conquest of Glamorgan. The keep, a rectangular building 45 ft. high, and 25 ft. north and south, by 43 ft. east and west, appears to be late Norman and part of the original building. It is enclosed on two sides and part of a third by additions, probably of E. E. and E. Dec. date. The principal additions on the north are of the 17th centy., and were not erected with a view to defence. — [G. T. Clark, Med. Milit. Arch.] It was purchased about 1655 from the St. Johns of Bletsoe by Col. Philip Jones, the celebrated Parliamentary commander, ancestor to the present owner. Philip Jones was second of the Commissioners "for the Celtic propagation of the Gospel in Wales," and was raised by Cromwell to his House of Peers, and made comptroller of his household. In the castle may be seen portraits of Cromwell and Ireton, and of Mr. Robert Jones, great-grandfather of the present owner, by Sir J. Reynolds. Fonmon was often visited by John Wesley, whose chamber is still preserved and honoured at Fontigary, an adjacent farm-house. Oliver Cromwell's great-grandfather, Sir Richard Williams, whose mother was a sister of Thomas Cromwell the "Hammer," was a native of the neighbouring parish of Llanishen. Near Fonmon is **Aberthaw**, situated at the mouth of the Cowbridge river, celebrated for its hydraulic lime, obtained from the lime pebbles on its beach. Near it also are the ruins of Penmark, Castleton, and *E. and W. Orchard Castles*; these two latter were, however, rather fortified houses than castles, and were built by some Flemish horticulturists, who, in the reign of Henry I., long supplied the

King's garden with fruit and trees from here.]

Leaving St. Fagan's, on the l. are ruins of **St. George's**, and on r. of **Peterston Castles**.

36 m. **Peterston Stat.** [On rt. 1 m. is *Cotterell* (late Admiral Sir G. Tyler) and *St. Nicholas Church* and Rectory.

2 m. l. **Bonvilstone** (R. Bassett, Esq.), and 1 m. farther the disparted and ruined house of *Llantrythid*, the old seat of the Mansels, Bassetts, and Aubreys.]

Passing l. the fine but comparatively modern (viz. 1723–25) castellated mansion of **Hensol** (late Rowland Fothergill, Esq.), which enclosed the old house of Judge Jenkins, ancestor of the Earl of Shrewsbury, who is Earl Talbot of Hensol, and not far from Miskin Manor, a modern mansion on an ancient property, and Tal-y-garn, the residence of G. T. Clark, Esq., the well-known antiquary, the traveller arrives at 40 m. **LLANTRISSANT JUNCT.**

A branch line from the Taff Vale here crosses the South Wales Rly. to Cowbridge.

[1 m. on rt. are the hæmatite iron mines of *Cornel* and *Magudg*, in which the ore is worked open-cast like a quarry. Leland says in his 'Itinerary,' "There are two fair parkes by south of Llantrissant, now unimpaled and without decree. There is yren now made in one of these parkes, named Glinog." The discovery of these deposits has not affected materially (as it was first thought they would) the iron-work of the South Wales basin.

2 m. to the N. is the quaint town of **Llantrissant** (the Church of *Three Saints*), finely situated on a range of hills, and presenting a picturesque and rather romantic appearance. It is, however, a dirty

little place, a nearer inspection of which will scarcely repay the tourist, save for the view from the Graig, above the churchyard, which embraces a large extent of country, including nearly the whole of the Ely valley. The ch. is Norm. There are traces of a considerable camp on the hill to the rt. Here also is the ruin of an Edwardian castle, which in the division of lands by Fitzhamon fell, with Caerphilly, to Einion ap Collwyn. It is mentioned by Leland as having in his time two wards, and the inner dyked.

2 m. N. of the town is **Castellau** House (Mrs. Smith), formerly belonging to the Traherne family.]

From Llantrissant Junct. there is a branch rly. to Cowbridge, 6 m., passing, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m., **Ystrad Owen** Stat., where there is a ch. and a mound hard by, which has the appearance of having been intrenched.

§ **Cowbridge** is a pleasant little town, principally known for its grammar school, endowed by Sir Leoline Jenkins, Secretary of State in the reign of Charles II., and connected with Jesus College, Oxford. The endowment is small, but the college has spent 5000*l.* or 6000*l.* upon the buildings, and has made considerable exertions to raise the character of the school. It is said that Pelagius and Judge Jeffreys—questionable men both—were natives of the town, although Acton Park, near Wrexham, was clearly the birthplace of the latter.

The **Church** (which is a chapel of ease to Llanblethian) is singular, having a north aisle to the chancel, and a south one to the nave. In the chancel, which is divided by an old oak screen, are return stalls, in which the masters and boys of the grammar-school sit and have their special service. On the W. chancel wall is a tablet to the memory of Benjamin Heath Malkin, LL.D.,

the author of a by no means contemptible history of South Wales of the last generation, and there are some old monuments in the body of the ch. to the Jenkinsons of Hensol and others. Cowbridge was formerly called Pontvaen, and was thought by some to be the site of the ancient Bovium, but the mass of evidence seems to point to Boverton as the true site.

Cowbridge was anciently fortified, and the walls, buttresses, and a gateway remain nearly perfect on the S. side.

An interesting, though circuitous, excursion can be made from here through Llantwit and Ewenny to Bridgend.

1 m. l. of the town is **Llanblethian**, occupying a fine situation, overlooking the town and vale of Cowbridge, of which it is the mother church. Here is the ruined castle of **St. Quentin's**, of which little remains save the gateway, grooved for a portcullis, and some fragments of the outer curtain. The keep was in the centre, but is quite effaced.

On the opposite hill is **Penlline** Castle (the seat of J. Homfray, Esq.). The keep retains some Norman herring-bone work. The drive towards Penlline gives a good idea of the neighbourhood, and may embrace, in returning, Llanblethian, St. Quentin's, the Old Mill, and the College, as well as Cowbridge Ch.

Penlline Court (Dr. Salmon) is at the back of the hill on which the castle is situated.

A little to the S. of Llanblethian is the castellated mansion of **Llan-dough** (Mrs. Stacey), and to the l., in the valley of the Thaw, are the remains of **Beaupré** (pron. Beauper) House (Mrs. Bassett), the ancient seat of that family, the only one now remaining, in the male line, of the original Norman settlers. Beaupré was purchased in the reign of Henry II. by Sir Philip Bassett,

Lord Chief Justice, a descendant of John Bassett, Chancellor to Fitzhamon. It is a curious mixture of Greek with Gothic architecture, the ornamental portions of which were executed by a native artist named Richard Twrch, a common mason, temp. Edward VI., who acquired some fame as an architect, though the porch at Beaupré is the only acknowledged specimen of his workmanship existing.

5½ m. the ancient town of **Llantwit Major**, where a very famous school of divinity existed, said to have been founded by Bp. Germanus about the middle of the 5th centy. St. Iltyd, or Ilutus, upon whose institution the name of the place was changed from *Caer Wrgan* to *Llan-Iltyd*, and to whom the ch. is dedicated, was appointed to preside over the college,—a post which he is said to have retained for more than 90 years. The school became one of the most celebrated of its age, but was sadly shorn of its influence when, at the time of the Norm. conquest, Robert Fitzhamon transferred a large portion of its revenues to the abbey at Tewkesbury. It still existed, however, up to the time of the Reformation, when a finishing blow was given to its prosperity by the transfer of its remaining endowments to the Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral. St. Iltyd, independently of his being a sound theologian, was no contemptible handicraftsman, and the kind of plough invented by him, and still called after his name, may be seen in use in some of the remoter districts of Wales to this day. Llantwit boasts among its scholars Gildas, the historian, St. David (?), Paulinus, Archbp. Sampson, with whom ended the archiepiscopal jurisdiction of St. David's, Talhaiarn, and Taliesin "*Pen-beirdd*," the chief of bards.

Many of the abbots of Llantwit were bishops of Llandaff, and the

brethren of Llantwit monastery are said to have had for their habitations 400 houses and 7 halls.

The **Church** is the most interesting relic. What is called the new church, which is apparently the older of the two, is of the time of the 13th centy., and possesses a nave, aisles, and chancel, with a good rood-screen, in which are vacant niches, said to have contained images of the 12 apostles. In the S. aisle is a wall niche, the decoration of which consists of a vine climbing up its sides and twisting round 14 crowned heads. At the top is the Saviour's with the crossed nimbus. The lower part with the figure of Jesse is in the W. building. The niche (13th centy.) may have contained a figure of the Virgin. The capitals of the S. side are of E. E., though there have been alterations down to the Perp. period. The font is Norm. There are also some mural paintings in the church; our Saviour and Mary Magdalen on the N., and the fall of man on the S. of the chancel. The western portion (part of the original plan) is called the "*Old Church*," though more than a centy. later than the eastern, and this name Mr. Freeman thinks it got from having been originally the *parochial church*, but having at the Dissolution been deserted for the larger ch. of the monks, which thus became the *new church* of the parishioners—*C. A. J.* In this adjoining old church are some extremely old and curious tombs—particularly a coped stone with a row of lozenge-shaped compartments down the middle, an arabesque ornament on one side and a series of interlaced rings on the other. The inscription on the side is "*Ne petra calcetur que sub jacet ista tuetur.*" This stone was brought here in 1730 from a place called "*Great House*," where a chapel had formerly existed. At the W. of the

old church are the remains of the Lady Chapel, about 40 ft. in length. Some interesting stones stand in the ch.-yd., one of pyramidal form, probably Runic, on the S., and the shaft of a cross (the head destroyed by the Roundheads), erected by Bishop Samson in memory of St. Iltyd, bearing an inscription which has been thus deciphered: "Crux Iluti, Samson redis, Samuel excisor. Samson posuit hanc crucem pro anima ejus." Dr. Carne identifies this Samson with the Archbp., who went over and died at Dol, in Brittany, and whose rescue of Indual (query "Juthakel," below), is recorded in the '*Liber Landavensis*.' The other stones—which were disinterred and raised to their present site through the exertions of the eminent bard and antiquary Iolo Morganwg—seem also to have formed the shafts of crosses, one of which bears an inscription relative to Juthakel, King of Glamorgan, and Artmael, King of Gwent. The inscription upon the other refers to its having been set up by Howell, Prince of South Wales, upon his absolution by the Church for the murder of his brother Rhys. Adjoining the W. chapel, is what may have been the sacristan's house, with 2 later monuments of Henry VIII.'s date. It would seem that one represents a Lady Hopkins, though an attempt to read an imperfect inscription has led to a lady with a young child being mistaken for a prince, a female for a male. The costume cannot be doubtful. To the N. of the tower is a slab to the memory of Michael Voss, who died in 1534, aged 129. There are also crosses in the churchyard and village. The other antiquities in Llantwit are the Castle, or rather a castellated house, and the **Town-hall**, built by Gilbert de Clare, a picturesque old building, with a flight of steps to it, and gable bell, with an inscription. The so-called bell of the saint in the town-hall, is much later than

supposed, though its legend, "*Sancte Ilute, ora pro nobis*," connects it with the church and its famous school in sentiment. In the '*Annals of the Welsh Counties*,' by Dr. Nicholas, it is stated that Dr. Nichol Carne, of St. Donats, the owner of Llantwit, offered as a free gift 6 acres of land, embracing the very site of the ancient building, for the site of a University Coll. for South Wales, at the time when that scheme was in embryo. Nothing is to be seen inside. Considerable remains of Roman villas have quite recently been discovered at Llantwit, and afford further evidence of the settlements of that people along the great maritime road, and of the friendly terms on which they lived amongst the conquered Welsh.

1 m. to the S.E. is the village of **Boverton**, thought by some to be the Bovium of Antoninus, though others place it at Cowbridge. This was for some time a residence of the Lords of Glamorgan; the castle and manor, however, reverted to the Crown in the reign of Richard III. Henry VII. granted the lordship of Glamorgan and its appanages to Jasper, Duke of Bedford, who afterwards lay concealed at Boverton until his friends had succeeded in obtaining pardon for the murders that he had committed. As a mark of gratitude to his tenant, Griffith Voss, who had warmly interested himself in the duke's behalf, he granted him a life interest in the estates. The manor of Boverton is now the property of Lord Wimborne. The fortified manor-house still exists in a ruinous condition.

1 m. **Dimland**, a seat of I. N. Carne, Esq. On the coast, about 2 m. apart, are two camps, probably Roman; one of these, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Llantwit, is called the *Castle Ditches*, and consists of a triple line of very lofty embankment about 100 yds. in length.

At **Tressilian** (Dr. Carne), a little beyond, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the road between St. Donats and Llantwit, a good many caves are accessible in the cliffs, in one of which tradition asserts that marriages were celebrated. There is also a curious ebbing and flowing well.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ m. **St. Donat's** Castle, commanding a beautiful view over the Channel, while the church nestles snugly in a wooded dingle, running down to the shore. The castle, built by Sir W. Stradling, and for 6 centuries the seat of that family, and now the property of I. N. Carne, Esq., D.C.L., is an extensive and interesting castellated building, which the owner is carefully restoring, and bringing gradually back to its pristine characteristic features. The gateway is curiously carved, and there are singular medallion circles over it and over the doors in the quadrangular court, which is battlemented, each merlon being pierced with an eyelet. There is a good oriel window in the court, and the state apartments contain much fine wood-carving by Grinling Gibbons, and other artists of his time; one of these rooms has a very elaborate copper ceiling, richly carved; and the wainscots and panels which have been required to reclothe the dismantled walls of these, have been purchased with the utmost taste and discrimination. Archbishop Usher resided here for some time as a guest during the troubles. In the old picture gallery, which was burnt on the night when the last of the Stradlings was "waked," if we may use an Irish expression, there are distinct traces of a secret chamber on the side facing the S., and of a fireplace in that chamber. This is held by the owner classic ground, on account of its learned sometime tenant, the fugitive archbishop. The church contains the Stradling chapel, in which are some curious paintings

on panel of the 16th centy. relative to that family; also a monument to Sir Thomas Stradling, who is supposed to have died issueless in 1738, aged 28, and the last of his race, who had possessed the castle for 700 years. This Sir Thomas was run through the body at Montpelier by a certain Tyrwhitt in a brawl arising out of a love affair, and his body was brought home to be buried some six months after his death. The stories current about the corpse being a substituted corpse, which the old nurse ascertained by a test best known to herself, may be fanciful, but we believe that the present owner is on the maternal side the lineal representative of the Stradlings, the paternal line being quite extinct. The ch.-yd. is a delightful little nook, and carefully tended. The visitor should remark the cross, one of the most elegant in Wales, the subject on the head being the Crucifixion. The ch. is early Norm., with some later changes. On the opposite bank are the ruins of a watch-tower, said to be erected for the purpose of giving intelligence to the lord of St. Donat's of wrecks, for which, and for the fearful practice of wrecking, this coast had obtained an infamous notoriety. The view from the library and from the old picture gallery, looking over a series of hanging gardens down upon the sea, is very perfect; and in few places can such a pleasant blending of sequestered sylvan scenery and wooded dingles, with a maritime prospect, be so quickly realised. In these gardens the myrtle grows in the open air into a goodly shrub.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Monknash**; where are ruins of a monastic barn and buildings, which formerly belonged to the priory of Ewenny. A ch. marks the spot on the rt. of the road from Bridgend to Llantwit.

Near **Marcross** is a cromlech, called the Old Church, and the

fragments of a castle may be seen in the same neighbourhood.

2 m. on l. is **Dunraven Castle**, the in part modern seat and inheritance of the Earl of Dunraven, occupying a romantic situation on a rocky promontory called *Trwyn y Witch* (or the Witch's Nose), projecting into the sea, at a height of 100 feet above it, between two deeply indented bays. Near it formerly stood the Castle of *Dundrivan* (Castle of the Three Halls), where, according to tradition, *Caradoc* formerly kept his summer court. *FitzSimon* bestowed the castle and manor upon *William de Londres*, and he gave them to *Sir Arnold Butler*, one of whose female descendants conveyed them by marriage to the father of that *Walter Vaughan* who, if we may give credit to the story, was in the habit of alluring vessels to the coast by putting out false lights, that he might profit by the wrecks driven ashore, to which he was entitled as lord of the manor. In the very midst of his crimes, however, he lost his own three sons in one day, and a fourth, the eldest, shortly afterwards, and, looking on this event as a judgment from heaven on his iniquities, he sold the estate to the family of *Wyndham* and retired to *Tenby*, where he died, and where his tomb may be still seen in the church. Some curious caverns are worn by the sea in the rock beneath the castle. Through one of them, called the *Wind Hole*, the sea is forced at times in lofty jets. On the opposite side of the bay is the watering-place of **Southerndown**, containing a few lodging-houses and a pretty good inn. The coast is about 300 ft. high, and is interesting to the geologist from the horizontal stratification of the *lias* limestone, giving the cliffs a most peculiar appearance. *Fossils* are plentiful, especially *Ammonites* and *Gryphæa incurva*. There are dangerous currents off the shore at

Southerndown, which have been the cause of several losses of life to bathers.

1 m. **St. Bride's Church** (Early Norman, with later additions), restored in 1853, contains an incised slab and richly carved altar-tomb to the *Boteler* family of *Dunraven*, with the effigy of a knight, legs crossed, armed with a hauberk, and chausses of mail, and wearing a long surtout, open in front. There is a good Norman font, and two pairs of squints of different dates. A stone coffin is placed under the N. wall in the churchyard.

Passing over **Ogmore Down**, where the mountain limestone reappears, and skirting the wooded valley of *Eweny Park*, the traveller arrives at (2 m.) **Ogmore Castle**, a very remarkable example of a small square Norman keep, with the fragments of the curtain which enclosed the outer court, prettily situated at the junction of the *Ogmore* and *Eweny*, which is here crossed by a bridge of stepping-stones. Not much is left of the castle except the keep. Looking towards the sea, the view is intercepted by the enormous sand-hills which infest and advance upon the coast nearly as far as *Briton Ferry*. At the western end of the Down, under a hill, is a curious and abundantly-supplied spring, 15 ft. wide by 3 in depth, called by the country-people "*Schwyl*," which, upon issuing from its fount, divides itself into two streams, one of which contains soft water, the other hard.

On the opposite side of the *Ogmore* is **Merthyr Mawr** (*J. C. Nicholl, Esq.*), in whose grounds are two fine sculptured crosses. In the restoration of the ch. here several incised stones and slabs, of various dates, were placed under the E. wall; among them a *Paulinus* stone and a pillar-stoup. Follow-

ing the course of the Ewenny $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., the visitor arrives at the ancient and venerable priory of **Ewenny**, adjoining which, and forming part of the buildings, is the seat of Col. Turbervill. It was an old monastic edifice, founded by Morice de Londres, some times after the Conquest, for monks of the Benedictine order. The church and all the conventual buildings were surrounded by strong walls, many of which still exist; the principal gateway was defended by a portcullis, and is in good preservation. The **Church** is probably the best specimen in Wales of a fortified ecclesiastical building, of the union of castle and monastery in the same structure. It was a cross ch. with chapels opening into the N. side of the presbytery and E. side of the S. transept, but the chapels with the N. transept have long been removed. The tower is of very massive construction, with battlements pierced with cross eyelets and buttresses of enormous thickness. The nave, now used as the parish church, is shut off from the rest, and has a blocked arcade of pure Norm. on the W. wall. The choir and presbytery are the finest examples of Norm. in the Principality. The roof is a fine specimen of Romanesque vaulting. Over the 3 western bays is a barrel vault, but the eastern bay has groined cellular vaulting. The pavement was formed of ancient glazed tiles, curiously emblazoned with coats of arms and devices, and there are tombs of the founder, Morice de Londres, Roger de Remi, and some of the Carne and Turbervill families. The priory is placed on the bank of the Ewenny, which here runs through an extensive marsh. Morice de Londres gave his new ch. to the Abbey at Gloucester in 1141, and the date of his tomb is *circ.* 1150.

The river Ewenny has long been famous for being the habitat of a

salmon-like fish of delicious flavour, locally termed the "gwyniad," from the silvery brightness of its scales. The gwyniad varies in weight from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 1 lb., is in season during April and May, and is said to be peculiar to this river.

[On the road between this and Cowbridge, 3 m. from the latter place is a tract of common called the **Golden Mile**, from a tradition that the Welsh chief Iestyn ap Gwrgant here paid down the sum in gold for which he had engaged the services of the Norman Fitzhamon, his 12 knights and 3000 men, to defeat his enemy Rhys ap Tewdwr.

2 m. from Ewenny is Bridgend.]

From Llantrissant Junction the rly. runs through a wooded district, with occasional coal-works. At Llanharry, too, a bed of iron-ore was found, with remains of Roman workings and pottery, showing that that people was well acquainted with the resources of this district.

$45\frac{1}{4}$ m. **Pencoed Stat.** To 1. 2 m. is **St. Mary Hill**, celebrated for its annual horse fair, to which dealers from all parts of England resort, and a little beyond it is **Coychurch**, the ch. of which is worth visiting, as forming with Coyty and Ewenny an unusually fine trio of churches for S. Wales. Coychurch was probably a model for the builder of Coyty, from which it differs in having aisles and buttresses. The building is Transitional style from E. E., with a semi-military central Perp. tower, choir, and presbytery, resembling Coyty. The trefoil lancet windows of the presbytery and E. end of the S. transept, with pointed labels, are noteworthy, as are also the clerestory windows on the S. side only, cinquefoiled openings, the large pointed and quatrefoil windows in a lozenge-shaped rear-arch at the W. end of each aisle, and the W. doorway. A sedile and piscina, with a triangular

anopy above its sill, are on the S. side of the chancel, and an ambrey on the N. Two curious effigies of the late 14th centy., and a rude 15th-centy. effigy of Thomas Evans, rector, are now placed in the N. transept. This ch., which may be seen in a morning's drive from Bridgend, after Coyty Ch. and Castle, and before Ewenny, has lately undergone careful restoration. In the ch.-yd. are two crosses of interlaced pattern, besides the usual ch.-yd. cross.

49 m. BRIDGEND JUNCT. with the Llynfi Valley Rly. § **Bridgend** is a neat thriving place, on the Ogmor, which divides it into two portions, Old and New Castle. In the latter district, on a wooded eminence overlooking the town, are the church and vicarage and the remains of the New Castle, consisting of a Norm. doorway and court. What is left of the Old Castle may be seen converted into a barn, at a farm about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the town. Both the Ogmor and the Ewenny were amongst the best rivers in the principality for salmon and sewin, but constant whipping has ruined the fishing, and even the most skilled angler may fish all day without obtaining any sport worth mention.

$\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the town, on the road to Tondy, is the County Lunatic Asylum, and about 1 m. to the E. of it, at Paregwylt, a second asylum, recently erected.

2 m. from Bridgend on rt. are **Coyty Church and Castle**. The former, which was judiciously restored in 1859, is a fine cruciform edifice of the 14th centy., with a Dec. tower, containing a massive groined roof. Some of the windows are geometrical, others Dec. The ch. consists of a nave, transepts, choir, and presbytery; the choir under the tower. The door to the rood-loft is approached by a staircase against the

W. wall, and supported by two half arches. Beneath these is a stone bench and recess, on which now rest two diminutive monumental figures from the chancel. Under the E. window of the S. side of the presbytery are 3 cinquefoiled recesses, the easternmost containing the piscina, the westernmost prolonged so as to form a proper sedile. An elaborately-carved chest with saddle-back top, and with the emblems of the Passion on the exposed side, stands against the chancel wall, but its use is doubtful. There are two sets of squints in this church, as in some other of the district. There are several monuments; one of them rejoicing in the following inscription:—

“Awake, dvll mortals, see yr. dvbious stay,
Frail is ovvr make and life soon posts away;
Myriads of chances take away ovvr breath,
And mvltifacious ways there are to death;
Beneath one lies estend for life and age,
By thvnder forced to qvlt this wordly stage;
Tremendovs death, so svddenly to be
From life's short scene moved to eternity.”

The **Castle** is an extensive and fast-decaying ruin. It consists of a circular enclosure rising above the exterior ground, and about 48 yards in diameter. On the N.W. side is a rectangular court 68 yards by 43. The whole is surrounded by a broad ditch. To the E. and facing the ch.-yd. is the principal *gatehouse*, a quadrangular structure with two upper floors, probably built in the time of Richard II., though the windows are of much later date. To the E. of the N. gatehouse, of which only the foundations remain, stand the fragments of a larger building, 37 ft. by 40, probably the *keep*, in the basement of which is a chamber vaulted in eight cells with pointed arches. The first floor contains two vaulted chambers; the second and third stories were roofed with timber. The *round tower* is an interesting feature. It is 18 ft. in diameter, and projects 22 ft. into the ditch,

being connected with the main building by a neck of wall. It contains a basement and two upper floors. The domestic buildings were ranged along the whole S. side of the court.

"The Lordship of Coyty is regarded by the Welsh as an honour of high antiquity, the estate and seat of a royal lineage, and the inheritance of one of the sons of Jestyn, the last native lord of Morganwg."—*G. T. Clark*. After the conquest of that country it was granted by Fitzhamon to Sir Pagan, or Payne, de Turbervill, who is said to have married the heiress of the old Welsh lords. His descendant Sir Gilbert, who married a daughter of Morgan Gam, a descendant of Jestyn, and who was in possession in 1207, was perhaps the builder of the Castle, the oldest parts of which are later than Norman. Coyty Castle passed from the Turbervills into the families of Berkrolles, Gamage, Sydney, and Wyndham, and now belongs to the Earl of Dunraven.

[A very pretty excursion can be made from here to **Maesteg**, 9 m., by the Llynfi Valley Rly., a little line made originally as a tramroad to accommodate the mining valley of the Llynfi, and to bring down the produce to Porthcawl for shipment. Two trains a day start from Bridgend, calling at

5 m. **TONDY JUNCT.**, where the Porthcawl branch is joined. **Tondy**, a busy mining village, contains the once flourishing iron-works of the Brogdens. The valley of the Llynfi is full of charming and picturesque scenery, and at the head of it is **Maesteg**, a large isolated mining town. It is shut in entirely by ranges of hills, which, higher up the valley at *Glyncorrwg*, become more precipitous and wild. From hence the traveller can cross the mountains between Glyncorrwg and the Vale of

Neath, a fatiguing though beautiful walk, or else proceed from Maesteg, across the hills to Cwm Afon, and rejoin the S. Wales Rly. at Aberafon, 7 m. W.]

[Another excursion may be made to **Newton Nottage** and Porthcawl, 5 m. S.W. The Neath road is followed, through the village of Laleston, 1½ m., as far as the turnpike, where a lane turns off to the l., passing **Tythegstone Court**, the seat of the Knight family. Newton Downs, along which a Roman road may be traced, afford extensive views over the Channel. The village of **Newton** is wretched and tumble-down, almost devoured by the encroaching sandheaps, but the church has a good carved stone pulpit, representing the Flagellation of our Saviour, approached by a passage in the N. wall of the nave with two branches, one on the l. to the pulpit, the other, rt., to the rood-loft; and there is an inscribed stone in the churchyard, near which is a well which flows only when the tide is out. Polybius mentions a like phenomenon at Gades. Newton and its neighbourhood form the scene of a large portion of Mr. R. D. Blackmore's 'Maid of Sker.' **Tymawr**, or Nottage Court, where Queen Anne Boleyn is said to have been a guest, is a quaint old Elizabethan house, which was restored by the late Rev. H. Knight.

Porthcawl is a small harbour, the terminus of the Llynfi Valley Rly., and the outlet of the produce of the Maesteg iron-works. A great deal of money has been spent of late years in making the port safe. One or two lodging-houses and good bathing are to be found there.]

Quitting Bridgend, the line runs up a steep incline between **Stormy Down** on the l. and the millstone grit of **Cefn Cribwr** on the rt., imme-

liately upon which, at a steep angle of inclination, the coal-beds repose. There are numerous collieries at Bryndu and Tondy on rt.

53 m. Pyle Stat., celebrated for its excellent building-stone. Here the Llynfi Valley Railway is crossed on its way from Maesteg to Porthcawl. In Pyle churchyard is a fine cross.

3 m. on l. is **Kenfig**, once an important town, where Fitzhamon held a castle, which was destroyed by an overwhelming inundation of the sea in the middle of the 16th centy. A faint *soupçon* of its former grandeur remains in the shape of a chest of ancient charters and records, carefully secured by three keys, in charge of the corporation. A portion of the castle and some ruins of the ancient ch. may be traced amongst the sandhills. In order to prevent the sand from being blown further inland, the tenants of farms adjoining the shore are compelled by strict covenants to plant annually a certain quantity of the *arundo arenaria*, whose roots bind the sand together. The old ch. has been submerged by the sand-deluges; but a fragment of the ancient castle projects above the sand. The present ch. has an early and curious font. The lake at Kenfig, which, although close to the sea, never imbibes any auratic properties, is traditionally said to occupy the site of a great city. There is a curious upright stone at this place, inscribed both with Roman letters and Ogham characters, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the ch. is another, much larger, but without any inscription.

2 m. on rt. is **Margam Abbey**, the seat of C. R. M. Talbot, Esq., M.P. and Lord-Lieut. of the county. The house is a modern edifice, designed chiefly by its owner: its principal features are 2 facades and a

tower, beautifully situated on a rising ground, backed by a hill 800 ft. high (Mynydd Margam), and covered from top to bottom for about 2 m. with a noble oak wood. The sea-air, however, has exercised considerable influence in keeping down the heads of the trees to a uniform level, none overtopping the rest, so that, at a distance, it looks like a huge clipped hedge. The abbey was founded 1147 by Robert Earl of Gloucester (Fitzhamon's son-in-law), for monks of the Cistercian order, and was sold at the Dissolution to Sir Rice Mansel, of Oxwich Castle, an ancestor of the present owner. The male line of the Mansels of Margam became extinct in 1750. The chief portion remaining is a clustered column of the chapter-house, the beautiful groined roof of which was suffered to fall in 1799. There is an inscribed stone and wheel-cross in the churchyard. The W. end of the abbey has been preserved in the present parish church, which contains monuments of the Bussy, Talbot, and Mansel families. The circular door at the W. end—its moulding resting on pilasters with knots or bands, repeated in other parts of the building—deserves notice. Giraldus Cambrensis visited this abbey in 1188, after Ewenny; and the Duke of Beaufort, as Lord President of Wales, was welcomed at Margam in 1684.

The modern mansion possesses in its details much originality and beauty, and contains several antique statues, ancient furniture, and some fine paintings by the old masters—among them St. Augustine with the Virgin and Child, by *P. Veronese*; a *Vandyck*; some *Canalettis*, &c. The **orangery**, within the grounds, is celebrated for its fine trees, many of which are 20 ft. high. They were sent over to England by a Dutch merchant as a present to Queen Mary, consort of William III., but

the British forces headed by the sons of Caradoc ap Iestyn (whose lordship extended from the Tawe to the Afon) here attacked the Norm. lords with great spirit, and put them to rout so completely, that all who escaped the sword fled for an asylum to the various castles of Gower. 3000 men are said to have been slain in the conflict. In 1231, Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, and Morgan Gam, enraged by some act of injustice perpetrated by Hubert de Burgh upon the invaders, laid siege to the castle and burnt it, exterminating many of the inhabitants, and setting fire to their houses.

The line, after quitting Neath Stat., makes a great bend, passing on l. the beautiful ruins of **Neath Abbey**, defaced by the smoke and coal-dust of the neighbouring extensive copper works. Though now so unsightly and contaminated with black stains, it was originally a structure of great extent and magnificence, and is described by Leland as "the fairest abbey in all Wales." It was founded in 1111 by Richard de Granville of Bideford (one of the companions of Fitzhamon) and his lady Constance, for Grey friars, and finished in 1129. The architect was one Lalys, who also built Margam, and whom de Granvil brought with him on his return from the Holy Land. The famous bard, Lewis Morganwg, who flourished in the beginning of the 16th centy., gives a laboured and glowing description of the glories of this splendid structure. Here the unfortunate Edward II. took refuge after escaping from Caerphilly, and, it is probable, found sanctuary here for some time. From thence, too, he sent envoys, of whom the chief was "Our Beloved in Christ the Abbot of Neath," to treat with his rebellious queen and subjects. But ere long, Edward being anxious to again join his adherents, entrusted himself to the guidance of a faithless

monk, who betrayed him at Llantrisant, and his fate soon afterwards was consummated beneath the blood-stained towers of Berkeley. The ruins, which are extensive, are chiefly E. E. and E. Dec., besides later buildings by Sir P. Hoby, erected about 1650. There is a curious crypt called a refectory. At the Dissolution this abbey was granted to Sir Richard Williams, an ancestor of Oliver Cromwell; and passed, later on, to the Hoby family. Even in its desolation, Neath Abbey still looks imposing, though the state of the ruins reflects little credit on their owner. In a field adjoining the house of **Court Herbert**, recumbent beneath a rude, cross-inscribed stone, may be seen the well-sculptured effigy of an ecclesiastic, holding the model of a church.

1 m. to the N. of the abbey in the Clydach valley is **Dyffryn**, the modern seat of Howell Gwyn, Esq.

To the S., on the rt. bank of the Neath, Tennant's Canal runs from Aberdylais to Swansea, and the Neath and Swansea Branch of the Great Western Rly. (Rte. 10) runs parallel with the canal past **Crymlyn Bog**. This extensive swamp of Crymlyn was in ancient times the boundary between the kingdoms of Morganwg and Dyfed, and was at the time probably more like one in appearance than at present. Immense beds of the white water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*) occupy the bog, and in the season give it quite a brilliant appearance. Crymlyn is said to derive its name from a seat of Druidical worship on its borders, and has been interpreted as meaning the Lake of Homage or Adoration, from "Crym," to bow. A low promontory jutting out into its waters is still called Banc yr Altar, or the Altar Mount. According to local tradition, the ancient lake of Crymlyn occupies the site of a great city, and it is still a favourite resort of the fairies, who have magnificent palaces

hidden away in the depths, from whence strains of more than mortal music occasionally ring up through the dark waters to human ears. Conan, grandson of Rhys ap Tewdwr, King of Dyfed, was drowned here upon his return from the great battle of Hirwain Wrgan in the 11th centy., which was fatal to that prince. A pool in the bog is still known as Pwl Conan, or Conan's Pool. The remains of an ancient *chapel*, called Capel St. Margaret, may still be seen on the farm of Penissa Coed, adjoining Crymlyn, where an annual hiring fair was held until the chapel fell into ruins, when the fair was removed to Neath.

The high hill of Mynydd Drim, to the W. of the Tawe, intervenes between Neath and Swansea, causing the railway to be carried up a steep incline, at the summit of which is **Llansamlet Stat.**, 70 m. It as rapidly descends into the **Vale of Tawe**, which hereabouts, and all the way to Swansea, exhibits an unparalleled scene of desolation, to which a beautiful contrast is offered on the rt. by the distant hills at the head of the Swansea valley. The soil is naturally unfertile. The deleterious influence of the fluoric or arsenical acids from the copper-works arrests the stunted vegetation, so that there are no trees, and instead of grass a dry yellow sickly growth of chamomile barely covers the ground. To the traveller who crosses the **Llandore** bridge at night, the livid glare from the numerous chimneys, the rolling, fleecy, white clouds of smoke which fill up the valley beneath him, the desolate-looking heaps of slag on either side, might well recall Dante's line—

“Voi che entrate, lasciate ogni speranza.”

The extensive village to the rt. is **Morrison**, begun in 1768 by the Mr. Morris from whom it gets its name, where the workmen and col-

liers reside who are employed in the adjacent works. The Tawe is crossed by a viaduct of 95 ft. span.

The river accompanies the railway on the l., lined with the numerous buildings belonging to the Upper Bank, Hafod, Middle Bank, and White Rose Copper-works.

At **LLANDORE JUNCT.** the main line proceeds to Llanelly, while a short branch conveys the traveller to

75 m. **SWANSEA** (Rte. 2).

ROUTE 2.

FROM **SWANSEA** TO **MILFORD HAVEN**,
BY **LLANELLY**, **CAERMARTHEN** AND
HAVERFORDWEST.

♂ **Swansea**, which contests with Cardiff the metropolitan supremacy of S. Wales, is situate on the rt. bank of the Tawe (whence its Welsh name of **Abertawe**), at its mouth, which by means of piers of masonry projecting from either side, forms a convenient harbour opening into the bay of Swansea. It has greatly increased in size, inhabitants, and prosperity, in the last 50 years, within which time the vast resources of the coal-field in the midst of which it is situated, and to which it owes its good fortune, have been explored and brought to bear. Yet it is not a hundred years ago that the first great coal-owner who substituted coal-waggons for the old sacks and packhorses employed to transport his coals to the quay, was threatened by the people with prosecution “for turning the beer in

the vessel in which they were shipped becoming a total wreck upon the neighbouring sands, its cargo was claimed by the owner of Margam, Lord of the Manor; and, when he offered to resign them after the Restoration, he was requested by the King to retain them as a gift. There is a gigantic bay-tree here, 80 ft. high: indeed, trees and shrubs of all sorts seem to attain unusual vigour in the mild climate of the Vale of Glamorgan, which permits even the myrtle and arbutus to flower in the open air. Immediately behind the abbey rises a lofty spur, upon which may be traced the remains of a Roman encampment called **Pen-y-Castell**. The site of the camp, as well as the glen beneath, are well worthy of a visit. In the wood not far from the carriage-drive are the ruins of a small chapel or oratory, which formed an appendage to the abbey. Another dependency was **Eglwys Nunydd**, or Nun's ch., about 2 m. S. of Margam, now converted into a farmhouse. The ruins of yet another chapel, which seemed to have been placed there for the benefit of travellers who were either about to cross, or who had already crossed the dangerous ford over the Afon, stand near the high road to Aberafon. Several monumental stones occur in this neighbourhood, among the most remarkable of which are the **Maen-y-Dythyrog**, or lettered stone, which stands upon the bare hill-top, about 2 m. from the abbey near a large "agger," and is in all probability sepulchral. This stone is about 14 ft. in height, and bears the following inscription: "Bodvacus hic jacet filius Catotis, Imi pronepos æternali domo." A singular belief obtains among the country people, to the effect that whoever reads the inscription will die within the year. Another stone is thus inscribed: "Senatus populusque Romanus veromanus duo (query, "divo") Tito,

divi Vespasiani, F. Vespasiano, Augusto."

Passing the **Taibach** Copper-works, the train arrives at

61 m. **Aberafon** Stat., or more properly Port Talbot, the shipping port of the coal, copper, iron ore, steel and tin-plates from the neighbouring works, more especially the busy manufacturing district of **Cwm Afon**, 2 m. on rt., where are situated the Iron and Steel Works of the Cwm Afon Works proprietors and the Tin-plate Works of the Copper Mines and Tin-plate Co., Limited. A more busy, and at the same time picturesque, place, can scarcely be conceived.

A handsome church, with a lofty spire, shows that Cwm Afon is not utterly devoted to Mammon. On the summit of Foel stands the colossal chimney, to which a flue is carried along the slope of the mountain for 1100 yds. It is 180 ft. high and 15 wide, and cost 4000*l.*, its object being partly to detain those particles of metal which, in the ordinary way, are carried off by the smoke, for which purpose it is accessible by doors, and partly that the enormous mass of copper-smoke vapour might not be allowed to settle in the valley, so as to be prejudicial to the health of the population. At **Pontrhydyven** is a fine water-wheel, set in motion by a stream brought from the opposite side of the valley by a stone aqueduct 460 ft. long.

The Rhondda and Swansea Bay Railway runs up the valley of the Afon, and is open as far as Cymmer, whence a tunnel about 3000 yds. long is now being driven through the mountain to Treherbert in the Rhondda Valley, to which place it is expected that the line will be open before the end of 1889.

The rock of **Craig-afon** presents a singular effect, seeming as though it were blocking up the entire valley. Beyond Port Talbot the line skirts

the shoulder of well-wooded hills, commanding a fine view over the mouth of the Neath, the Mumbles, and bay and town of Swansea, the site of the latter marked by the dense clouds of white copper-smoke everlastingly hanging over it.

On rt. is *Baglan House*, the residence of the Earl of Jersey, once the resort of the poet Mason. A portion of the coping of the churchyard wall is formed by the "Brancv" inscribed stone. (See 'Gent. Mag.,' July, 1861.)

64 m. **Briton Ferry**, the port of Neath, situated at the mouth of the river. Large docks have been formed, and a mineral railway made to convey the produce from Glyn Corrwg and the valley of the Upper Afon down to this port, so that Briton Ferry is fast becoming an important town. The greater part of the place belongs to the Jersey family, who had a villa here. The church is quaint and pretty. This was one of the grand scenes of the old Welsh tourists, and not without good reason, for even within the memory of by no means aged persons, it was one of the loveliest spots in the United Kingdom. Steep hills, clothed to the very summit with giant oaks, a curving bay, where the hanging boughs dipped in the waves, a broad river majestically moving seawards between bold wood-crowned bluffs, a tiny church almost hidden by trees, a perfect gem of a churchyard, and a climate so mild that many of the more tender exotics flourished in the open air,—these were some of the charms of Briton Ferry, which have been obliterated by the creation of the existing busy but singularly dirty little town. The mansion house and estate comprising 40,000 acres at Briton Ferry, was for many generations the property and seat of the Mansels, but it afterwards passed to the Vernons. Lady Vernon bequeathed it to the younger brother

of the Earl of Jersey, at whose death it fell to the grandfather of the present Earl. The estate has now been reduced in size to about 8000 acres, occupying a continuous tract from here to the Swansea valley, but it is still very valuable on account of the minerals which underlie nearly the whole of it. *Vernon House* is now a lunatic asylum.

67 m. NEATH JUNCT.

♂ **Neath**, supposed to have been the Nidum of Antoninus, is prettily situated near the mouth of the river and Vale of Neath, or Nedd, which here opens out to a considerable breadth. It enjoys much prosperity, placed in a coal-district by the resources of which many iron, tin, and copper works are set going. A canal from Abernant brings coal and fire-clay. The Vale of Neath Railway (Rte. 10) is also an important feeder to the S. Wales line, by which communication is given to Merthyr, Hirwain, Aberdare, Pontypool, and the North of England. Another line (Rte. 13) places Neath in connection with Brecon and the Mid-Wales district. A *steamer* runs to Bristol twice a week. In the town are slight remains of the castle, which belonged to Iestyn Ap Gwrgant, and which was burnt in 1231. The parish church is poor, but contains an ancient tower and some hatchments of the family of Mackworth of Gnoll. On the hill above the town stands **Gnoll**, once a seat of the Mackworths, but now the property of C. Evan Thomas, Esq.

In 1888 a Music Hall and Council Chamber, with municipal offices, were erected on ground given to the Corporation by the late Howel Gwyn, Esq. The Hall will hold 1500 people, and will shortly be furnished with an organ, the gift of Mrs. Gwyn.

Several sanguinary battles have been fought in the neighbourhood, between the natives and their Norm. oppressors. In the reign of Stephen

their cellars sour by the jolting of his heavy carts." The smelting and refining of copper is, and has been since the time of Queen Elizabeth, the staple trade of Swansea and the chief source of its prosperity; the ore being all brought from a distance, not merely from Cornwall and Devonshire, but across the Atlantic and round Cape Horn, from Cuba, the W. coast of South America, and Valparaiso. About 21,000 tons of copper are made at Swansea in the year. It is also the seat of many other industries, chiefly metallurgical. It is the centre of the great tin-plate production of England and the world. There are also large zinc works, nickel, cobalt and lead works, and the largest silver works in England, besides various chemical industries. The **Docks** occupy a considerable space in the heart of the town, but were long found to be inadequate to the growing requirements of the trade. After much delay, a large floating-dock was opened in 1859, formed by the side of the harbour in the Burrows, and a still more magnificent one was added in 1882. These great works have been executed under the administration of a body of harbour trustees. This body has expended in the execution of their trust more than a million and a quarter of money, and have an annual income exceeding £80,000. On the eastern side of the mouth of the harbour the Swansea and Neath Canal has its terminus. A canal also runs up the Swansea valley for a distance of 16 m.

Nearly in the centre of the town, at the back of the post-office, but so hedged in with buildings that it is very difficult to see, stand the remains of the **Castle**, consisting of a tower surmounted by an open gallery, and supporting a very elegantly-carved open parapet of arches—supposed by Leland and others to have been built by Bishop Gower about 1330,

since it agrees in style with portions of his palaces at Lamphey and St. David's. This parapet subserved military uses as well as the purpose of ornament. A castle was originally founded here in 1113 by Henry de la Bellemonte, otherwise Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, who introduced into it a garrison of English and Flemish colonists settled in the peninsula of Gower.

In the reign of Edward IV., the heiress of William Herbert, Earl of Huntingdon, then the possessor, conveyed it by marriage to Sir Charles Somerset, an ancestor of the Beaufort family, still Barons of Gower, in whose possession it has remained ever since. It was frequently taken and retaken during the Civil Wars. In 1646 it was ordered that "Swansey Castle be disgarrisoned and slighted," but Major-General Llaugharne, the recusant Parliamentary leader, having managed to get hold of it, strengthened and repaired the defences, and regarrisoned it for the king. After Llaugharne's defeat at St. Fagan's (1648), Cromwell marched here and remained for some time. The Protector conferred a new charter upon the town, which rejoices in a greater number of similar deeds than any other town in the kingdom. The two earliest charters are supposed to be those granted by King John, long believed to have been lost, but which still exist in the Record Office, and another by William De Breos, who claimed the sovereignty of Gower. A portion of the building is used as a store-room for the militia.

In the parish **Church of St. Mary**, a singularly ugly structure, which, with the exception of the chancel, dates from 1739, when the old ch. fell down,—among other monuments, is that of Lady Elizabeth Gordon, a lady of royal connexion, and daughter of the Earl of Huntley, who was given

in marriage by the King of Scotland to the pretender Perkin Warbeck; she afterwards married Sir Matthew Cradock, a Welshman, and High Steward of Gower. Their tomb lies N. of the chancel in the Herbert chapel, and consists of an altar-tomb of Bath oolite, bearing their effigies. The lady, however, is not buried here, but at Fyfield, in Berks. There is also a fine *Brass* to the memory of Sir Hugh Johnys, of Llandymor Castle, in Gower. The inscription is as follows—

“Praye for the soule of Sir Hugh Johnys, Knight, and Dame Mawde his wife, which Sir Hugh was made Knight at the Holy Sepulchre of our Lord Ihu Crist, in the city of Jerusalem, the xiiij day of August, the yere of oure Lord Gode MCCCCXLJ. And the said Sir Hugh had co'tynuyd in the werris the long tyme before by the span of fyve yers, that is to say Ageynst the Turkis and Sarsyns in the f' tis of Troy, Greece, and Turkey, under John, y^t time Emperoure of Constantynenople, and aftir that was Knight Marshall of ffrawnce under John duke of Som'set by the speice of fyve yers. And in likewyse aftir that was Knight Marshall of England under the good John Duke of Norfolkke, which John gyave unto hym the manno' of Landymo', to hym and to his heyr for ev'rmore, uppon whose soullies Ihu have mercy.”

Upon the label issuing from the lady's mouth is “*Fiat mi a d'ne supra nos.*” The church of St. John is built on the site of an ancient chapel of the Knights of Jerusalem. There are some vestiges of an old religious house, St. David's Hospital; the charter of its foundation dating from 1332.

The **Royal Institution** of South Wales is a handsome Grecian building, with a portico, erected in 1840 by a local society for the promotion of science and literature. It possesses a theatre, library, and museum

of natural history and geology, in which is an interesting and unique collection of bones of mammoth and other animals found in the limestone caves of Gower; also a series of coal-plants from the district. Swansea Theatre was associated in its early days with the acting of both the Keans, Macready, and C. Mathews, all of whom trod these boards. Here, too, Pugin painted the scenery.—(*Mrs. S. C. Hall.*)

The **Town Hall** is a fine building in the Corinthian style, in front of which stands a monument of the late J. H. Vivian, Esq., M.P.

There is also an excellent public library with an art department containing some valuable engravings and other works of art.

Swansea was formerly resorted to as a bathing and watering place; but fashion has been driven away by commerce, and all the promenades have been swallowed up by the docks, so that many bathers have preferred to retreat to the Mumbles—added to which, the town is not always pleasant as a residence, owing to the copper-works, which fill the air with the fumes whenever a N.E. wind blows.

Gower, the poet, is supposed to have been a native of Swansea, although he really belonged to a Suffolk family. *Beau Nash*, the celebrated master of the ceremonies at Bath, was born in Goat Street, 1673, in a house now removed. *Savage*, the unfortunate poet, resided here.

[One of the most interesting excursions in the Principality can be made from Swansea into the peninsula of Gower, interesting from its scenery, antiquarian remains, and the character of its inhabitants, who are usually said to be descended from a Flemish colony settled here by Henry I., but some authorities judging from some peculiarities of

language have held them to be immigrants from Somersetshire (*Arch. Camb.*, 1861). Even at this lapse of time the Gowerians have kept themselves tolerably aloof from their Welsh neighbours, and preserve their distinctiveness in customs, dress, and language. The rly. which leaves Swansea from the *station* in Rutland Place, follows the curve of Swansea Bay, so that the tourist enjoys fine sea views all the way to Mumbles. At **St. Helen's** (Col. Morgan) a road to rt. branches inland, past the pretty church of Sketty, to the Gower Inn, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m. over Fairwood Common.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ m. is **Singleton**, the seat of Sir H. Hussey Vivian, Bart., M.P., where art has been happily blended with nature in the management of the grounds, which yield to none in the Principality for beauty. The mansion is Elizabethan, with a pinnaled tower, and superseded a former building, called the Marino. Here there is a collection of antiquities, Roman and Etruscan, and a fine spacious orangery. To the back of Singleton is **Parkwern** (Sir H. H. Vivian, Bart., M.P.); on the high ground to the rt. is **Sketty Park** (Sir J. Armine Morris, Bart.); and higher up **Hendrefoilan** (L. L. Dillwyn, Esq., M.P.). $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. rt. Clyne Park (Graham Vivian, Esq.).

* $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. The pretty **Norton** village, where fuchsias and myrtles grow at the cottage doors, and beyond which the old ruin of **Oystermouth Castle** breaks in upon the view, finely placed on an eminence overlooking the bay, and backed up by an immense cliff of limestone. It has been partly restored by the Duke of Beaufort, under the antiquarian superintendence of G. G. Francis, Esq., of Swansea. The plan of the castle is irregular, its general figure being an isosceles triangle. The gateway has been

flanked by two towers, which have been removed at some early period, so that the inner and concave segment forms now the outer wall, and thus throws forward the gateway. What may be called the keep is certainly the oldest part of the building. This is placed at the N.E. angle, is quadrangular, of 3 stages, heavily buttressed, with recessed chambers in the buttresses. The upper story is the chapel, which still retains five large decorated windows, with mullions partially renewed, as well as the remains of some frescoes. It is all of the same date, E. Dec., and the additions are not much later. This castle is curious for its domestic details. It was probably built by Henry de Bellamonte, the builder of Swansea Castle, to serve as a link in the border chain of castles. Near it is the ch., with a fine embattled tower, and some Perp. windows.

A little beyond is the village and watering-place of **§ Mumbles**, which has considerably increased since the formation of the docks spoilt the bathing at Swansea. The easiest way to reach it is by omnibus or branch-railway, as the high road is fatiguing, and not along the coast. It is snugly situated underneath the high escarpment of mountain-limestone cliffs which terminate seawards in two rocky islets, on the furthest of which stands the Mumbles Lighthouse, and almost immediately under which is the first in order of the interesting Gower caves, accessible at low water. Much stone is obtained from the quarries and sent to Swansea. The **Bay**, which is thought by many to bear a strong resemblance to that of Naples in its outline, and indeed was considered by W. S. Landor to be equal if not superior to it in beauty, is seen to advantage from here, and is singularly graceful. Ancient records point to a considerable extent of

wood which has been submerged by the sea, a fact borne out by geological appearances, such as the discovery of trunks of trees, hazel-nuts, &c., at low water.

The sea has made great encroachments here within living memory, and not so many centuries back the high road to Bristol ran along a tract now constantly covered by the waves. The Mumbles *roadstead*, as affording perfectly secure shelter to shipping in all winds, except those from the N.E., is very important as a harbour of refuge, and many hundred sail are occasionally detained here whilst waiting for more favourable weather. The oyster fishery is valuable, and affords employment to a number of vessels and many men.

At **Lilliput**, close to the village of Norton, Sir W. Logan found a seam of coal cropping out on the sea-shore with only a thin covering of sand.

2 m. W. of the Mumbles is **§ Casall Bay**, an extremely pretty bit of marine landscape. Here are some copious springs of delicious water, covered at high tide. The pedestrian should walk along the cliffs from the Mumbles by **Langland's Bay** and **Whiteshell Point**, where the coast is fine and rugged. At the former bay is the marine villa of the Rev. G. H. Avenport.

1½ m. **Pwlldu Head**, a splendid mass of limestone, forming a well-known sea-mark, and the finest headland in the whole peninsula. The pretty woodland glen should be followed to **Bishopston**, 2 m. as is usual in limestone strata, several geological curiosities are to be met with, as enormous pits or depressions, and the disappearance of the river, which runs underground for more than a mile. The rocks at this dingle are known to geologists as the **Black Shales of Gower**. **Bishopston Church** has an embattled

tower, and, together with the schools, forms a pretty object at the head of the glen.

An old tenement, called **Culver House**, is held by tenure of service of "Grand Serjeantry" at the King's coronation—a claim acknowledged by the Court of Claims in the time of William IV. **Bishopston** formerly belonged to the Bishops of **Llandaff**. The Rev. E. Davies, the eminent antiquary and author of the '*Mythology of the Druids*' and other works, was long rector of this parish.

2 m. inland is the primitive **Gower Inn**, built by the late Mr. Penrice, of **Kilvrough**, for the accommodation of tourists, for whom no other exists in the peninsula, save what a farmhouse may afford. It is charmingly placed at the junction of two or three glens, well wooded and each with its accompanying streamlet. The best way to reach it from the coast is to strike off at **Pwllddu Bay** by the path up the dingle. The landlord of the **Gower Inn** is, or was till recently, no contemptible florist. It is a lovely walk of two miles to **Ilston Ch.** (remarkable for its saddleback roof), and also to the **Green Combe**. Near the Inn are **Landgrove Farm** and the **Court House**, where traces of Flemish (?) architecture are still visible.

The wooded demesne opposite is **Kilvrough** (T. Penrice, Esq.).

The geologist should not omit to visit the **Bone Cave of the Bacon Hole**, on the coast, about 1 m. from the **Gower Inn**, where a guide should be procured. It is almost in a straight line with **Pennard ch. tower**, in the ch.-yd. adjoining which is a curious epitaph:

"Whom God consorts with sacred right and love,
Death cannot separate marrow* from the dove."

This cave was systematically blasted

* Marrow here = mate or companion.

to obtain the bones which were found in successive layers: 1st, alluvial earth, containing recent shells and bones of ox, red deer, roebuck, and fox; 2nd, bear, ox, and deer; 3rd, mammoth, rhinoceros, hyæna, wolf, bear, ox, and deer; 4th, mammoth, badger, and polecat. Below this, and upon the limestone floor, were shells of *Clausilia nigricans*, *Littorina littoralis*, bones of birds, and arvicola. The mammoth bones are deposited in the Swansea Museum, and are remarkable for their size, one tusk being 2 ft. round and 5 ft. 5 in. long. All these different layers were separated by deposits of stalagmite, the only traces of man being some pieces of British pottery.

Other caves are to be found along the cliffs, such as the Mitchin Hole, Bosco's Cave, &c., all of them more or less ossiferous.

Pennard Castle is commandingly placed, overlooking a "pill," doubtless at one time occupied by the sea. Little remains but a bold gateway with rude flanking towers of Edwardian times; but the whole neighbourhood has been inundated by sand, which, tradition asserts, was blown over in one night, but which has evidently been the work of four or five centuries. The botanist will find *Draba aizoides* growing on the walls of this castle about the month of August. Samphire and "the Ulva porphyra," whence laverbread is made, are gathered on the rocks hereabout, and sold in Swansea market.

Traces of the foundations of what must have been a considerable town may be made out amongst the sandhills. A neighbouring hamlet is still called the *South Gate*, and an adjoining farm the *North Town*.

On Penmaen Burrows is the very small old church of **Penmaen**, buried like Old Kenfig and Newton Not-

tage by the sand at some distant period, and exhumed in 1861.

Soon after passing the modern Penmaen Church, **Oxwich Bay**, the finest in Gower, opens out. The ruins of **Penrice Castle**, and the modern mansion of C. R. M. Talbot Esq., M.P., Lord Lieutenant of the county, stand embowered in wood at the W. angle of the bay.

This old ruin "is inferior only to Caerphilly, Cardiff and Coyty, in the area contained within its walls and is second to none in its strong, commanding and picturesque position." (*G. T. Clark*). The round tower is probably the oldest part of the building, and the recent excavation of some fragments of Norm. work support the theory that it was erected at the end of that period, though round towers of that early date are very rare. In the reign of Hen. V. the Castle came by an heiress of the Penrices to the Mansels from whom the present owner is descended. It passed to the Mansels, whose heiress conveyed it by marriage, in 1750, to the ancestor of the present owner.

Penrice Church should be visited for the beauty of its situation. There is a Norm. wall and arch, masked with plaster, between the nave and the chancel, a S. porch of early De. date and a S. door of early Eng. date.

Oxwich Church and Castle stand on the promontory of the same name, which bounds the bay on the W. Inside the former is an altar tomb to Sir Rice Mansell, a member of the family which founded the castle, and removed to Margam in the reign of Henry VIII. The latter is more of a military residence than a castle, and is in part "a large Perp. mansion, carried along at the complete elevation of a tower, the walls of which are dotted rather irregularly with a number of square-headed windows of two lights, and single-light windows with depressed heads." A great part of Oxwi-

tle is converted into a farm-house, with domestic work in it of dubious antiquity. Tradition asserts that an execution took place here, respecting a wreck, between Sir George Herbert and Sir Rice Mansel, in which Lady Rice Mansel was killed by a stone.

A walk of 2 m. will bring the traveller to **Port Eynon**, a fishing-village, formerly renowned for smugglers. The cliffs become bold and precipitous, and the walk from hence to the Worm's Head, 5 m., is as fine as anything in South Wales. At **Paviland** are two bone-caves, described by Dr. Buckland in his work '*Dilectæ Reliquiæ*,' and approached by non-pedestrians from a farm a mile before reaching Paviland, between the road and the coast. In them were found recent shells and bones of elephant, rhinoceros, fox, hyæna, wolf, horse, deer, rats, and birds, besides the skeleton of a female (probably killed with a British camp on the summit), fragments of ivory, ornaments, and coins. These caves are very difficult of access from the land, but the necessary path can be found by inquiring at a farmhouse near.

Worm's Head, 20 m. from Swansea, is the most westerly point of the peninsula, consisting of two rocky headlands running out for a mile, and separated from the mainland and each other by causeways, which at low water are left bare above the tide. The traveller should endeavour to time his visit so as to be enabled to walk across, which can be done during a space of 5 h. The rock scenery is fine and bold, the outer point being 200 ft. above the sea. A curious noise is emitted from the **Blow-hole**, caused by the blowing out of the rock beneath, to which the waves rush, driving the air before them till it escapes by the external orifice. In stormy weather the Worm's Head is a dan-

gerous headland, and many a fine ship has been lost on this coast. The 'City of Bristol' steamer was wrecked in Rhosilly Bay in 1840. The best mode of seeing the Worm's Head to advantage is to put up with the rough and ready accommodation at Pitton farmhouse, or the 'Ship' at Rhosilly, and so get a whole day for it.

In the early part of the 17th century a homeward-bound galleon went ashore in Rhosilly Bay. Most of the crew perished, and the survivors sold the wreck for a small sum to a person named Thomas, who resided at Pitton. This person, being unaware of the value of his purchase, allows the sands to drift over it and almost cover it from view. One of the Mansel family, however, having discovered the nature of the cargo, forcibly broke into the wreck and carried off much spoil, though the ill-gotten treasure did little good, for he is said to have died miserably abroad. After this the galleon became entirely engulfed in the sand, and nothing more was recovered until about 75 years ago, when, after a great storm, a number of doubloons and dollars, bearing date 1631, were found strewn about the sands. In 1833 about 120 ft. of the ship was exposed, and a systematic attempt was made to recover the treasure. About 300 people were at work on this 'Eldorado,' and were well repaid for their exertions. In 1834 she was again visible for a short time, and a large number of Spanish dollars found.

The quaint, weather-beaten little village of **Rhosilly** is placed at the head of the bay, and at the foot of the downs. A comfortable lodging can be obtained at the house of a farmer at Pitton.

3 m. from Rhosilly is **Llangenydd Church**, the largest in Gower, having a side tower and a blocked Romanesque arch on its eastern

face; its importance is referable to its marking the site of an old priory and college, that of St. Cenydd, from whom its name is derived; and 2 m. beyond is **Llanmadoc**, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from which, on the coast, is another bone-cave known as Spritsail Tor. Near Llanmadoc is **Cheriton**, which has a Norm. church of some interest.

Cheriton ch. tower stands between nave and chancel, and has neither aisles nor transepts. On Llanmadoc Down above the village is a large British camp, seemingly adopted later by the Romans. There is a large British camp upon the rock above the Paviland caves, and 1 m. from Rhosilly, on the downs, is another.

On the return to Gower Inn the tourist should visit **Harding Down** and the well-preserved remains of the camp on its summit; and from thence should proceed to Reynoldstone, near which is **Stouthall** where is one of the largest ossiferous caves in the kingdom. From hence the ridge of **Cefn Bryn**, an elevation of old red sandstone, runs like a backbone through the peninsula, flanked on either side by the mountain limestone. Numerous cairns and Druidical circles are to be found on it, particularly the famous cromlech of **Arthur's Stone**, mentioned in the Welsh Triads as "the big stone of Sketty," and one of the wonders of Wales. It consists of an enormous mass of millstone-grit, 14 ft. long, 7 ft. deep, 6 ft. 6 in. at greatest breadth, and weighs 25 tons, apparently resting on nine upright supporters, but resting really on four, the whole rather sunk in a basin nearly full of rough stones. These, according to tradition, are fragments which Arthur struck off in his detestation of idolatry. A huge flat piece, about 30 ft. in circumference and about 3 feet thick, broken off from the upper stone, and weighing some 8 or 10 tons, lies

near it. Cairns and tumuli around mark this as only a portion of a greater work. It is situated on the N. slope of Cefn Bryn, and the tourist should keep along the base of the hill until the turnpike from Swansea to Reynoldstone intersects the turf road, then turn to the right for a few hundred yards, and again to the l. over the shoulder.

2 m. to the N. is **Webley Castle**, a large structure in fair preservation placed on the bank of the estuary of the Burry river, and a little to the W. of it are the scanty remains of **Llandymor** or Bovehill Castle, which belonged to Sir Hugh Johnny whose monument is in Swansea church. Here also is a strong iron trenchment, called **Manselfold**, probably an outwork to Webley. The view from the summit of Cefn Bryn is one of the finest in the county embracing the whole of Gower, with the Bristol Channel and Devonshire coast, on the S.; Tenby, the Carmarthenshire hills and coast, to the W. and N. The distance from Penmaen at the foot of the hill, to Swansea across Fairwood Common is 7 m. There is an interesting Roman-British camp at **Cil Ivor Hill**, near Llanrhidian, said to have been raised by Ivor Cadivor, a chieftain of Morganwg, 1110.]

78 m. **Gower Road Stat.** There is also a station here for the **Central Wales Rly.** (L. and N.W.), from whence the traveller can proceed to Llandeilo, Llandovery, and Craven Arms, en route for Manchester and the North. A short branch also is given off on l. to **Penclawdd**, a little fishing-village on the coast, where coal is shipped from the neighbouring collieries.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ m. rt. **Penllergaer**, the beautiful seat of J. Dillwyn Llewellyn Esq.

80 m. **Lloughor**, commanding the ferry of the Lloughor (Llwehwr) river, once an important place, the ancient Leucarum, and 5th stat. on the Via Julia, but now a miserable little village. A ruined square tower is all that remains of the castle, built probably by the Norman Henry de Beaumont on a site which the Romans had occupied; and the borough and sanctuary have disappeared like the greatness of Kenfig. The railway, as well as the turnpike road, crosses the estuary of the Burry river by a bridge more than $\frac{1}{4}$ m. long. On the other side the river are the pyritic copper works (a corruption of *ospitium*).

The line now runs through a flat and marshy country to the busy port and manufacturing town of

Llanelly (83 m., Rte. 21), where a branch railway in connection with the Central Wales system passes off to Llandeilo Vawr and Llandovery. It has risen into considerable commercial importance from the mineral treasures in its vicinity, and its ready access to the sea, which renders it an outlet for a large part of the S. Wales coal-field. Nearly the whole town depends for its prosperity upon the tin-works, copper-works and collieries. There are also chemical, and lead and pottery works. Large docks have been formed in connection with the G.W. Railway, whence great quantities of anthracite coal are exported. The chimney of the copper-works is 320 ft. high, and a conspicuous object for miles round. The **Church** is a fine old building in the centre of the town, with an embattled tower, the base of which is much broader than the top. There are also five or six churches in the borough and district erected in the last few years. A new Congregational chapel has a spire 100 ft. high. On the hilly ground to the N. is **Westfa**.

The railway from hence is carried over a long embankment, close to the water's edge, passing on the rt. **Stradey** (C. W. Mansel Lewis, Esq.).

87 m. **Pembrey**, a small port where a considerable amount of coal is shipped, brought from the Gwendraeth valley by rail. The copper works belong to Messrs. Elliott's Co. The village is placed at the foot of **Mynydd Pembre**, remarkable for its fine views over the sweep of Caermarthen Bay, the peninsular of Gower, and the Bay of Swansea, with the distant hills of Somerset and Devonshire beyond.

92 m. ♂ **Kidwelly** Stat. This town, which formerly enjoyed some prosperity, but is now almost decayed, owing to the port having become sanded up, stands on the Gwendraeth Fach, $\frac{3}{4}$ m. rt. of the stat. It contains a number of old houses, which appear to date as early as the 1st and 3rd Edw.; but its chief lion is the **Castle**, which, though a ruin, is tolerably perfect, and of considerable extent, on the rt. bank of the river, which separates it from the town, and from 80 to 100 ft. above it. In plan it is, like Caerphilly, of the Edwardian or concentric type, forming nearly a semicircle of which the main ditch is the curve and the river the chord. The *Inner Ward* has 4 round towers, about 44 ft. high, and 4 curtain walls with rampart-walk and parapet enclosing a quadrangle of about 80 yds. square. The principal entrance to the inner ward was through the S. curtain. The chapel tower is a curious structure built into the E. curtain, and containing a ground floor and two upper floors, the higher of which was the chapel, and is on a level with the ramparts. The Hall, 60 ft. by 25, and the retiring room, occupied the whole E. side of the quadrangle. The kitchen was in the S.W. corner opposite the hall. The

Outer Ward consists of a great and lesser gatehouse, curtain walls, several towers and offices. The great gatehouse is a massive building 80 ft. broad, 50 deep, and 62 high. There are dungeons to the rt. and l. of the entrance, and on the 1st floor a state room 40 ft. by 17. The outworks are divided into N. and S. platforms by a branch of the main ditch. The main part of the building is probably of the date of Hen. III. or Edw. I. The great gatehouse is early Perp., probably 1380–1400. [See G. T. Clark, *Milit. Arch.*] The whole presents many attractions both to the artist and antiquary, who will both find their account in a day spent here.

The castle is said to have been founded by William de Londres, one of the knights who assisted Fitzhamon in the conquest of Glamorgan, and the founder of the castle of Ogmere in that county. In 1135, while Gruffydd ap Rhys was in N. Wales, Gwenllian his wife led an army into Kidwelly. She fought a pitched battle with Maurice de Londres, was defeated, and put to death. Her eldest son also perished in the battle, and her second son was taken prisoner. The castle was for a long time a possession of the Duchy of Lancaster, but is now the property of the Earl of Cawdor.

The **Church** is a handsome building, though previous to its restoration it grievously suffered from mutilation and neglect. It possesses a tower and lofty spire, nave of an unusually large span, viz. 33 ft. in the clear, transepts and chancel with a wood roof, forming altogether a simple and uniform cross, and carved piscina. It is of Dec. date. In the interior are some mutilated effigies, and in a niche over the doorway is an original statue of the Virgin and Child.

96 m. **Ferryside Stat.**, celebrated for its extensive cockle-fishery, and,

as a watering-place, much frequented by the good folk of Caermarthen and neighbouring towns. It overlooks a large expanse of sand at the mouth of the Towy, and stands opposite to the headland and ruin of castle of **Llanstephan**, which keeps guard from on high over the little village snugly embosomed in the trees by the water's edge. Across the river there is a ferry. The view of the sands and Caermarthen Bay from the hill at sunset is one not to be forgotten. The walls of **Llanstephan Castle** are of considerable extent, and, at a distance, have an imposing appearance, though they are a mere shell. It is not very clearly established who was the founder of this castle, some attributing it to Uchtryd, Lord Merioneth in 1138; but we find it in 1138 in the possession of the Normans and Flemings, from whom it was retaken in 1143 by Meredydd and Cadell, the sons of Gruffydd ap Rhys, Prince of South Wales, who held it for many years, despite the desperate and frequent efforts made by the strangers to regain it. Afterwards it had many vicissitudes, and in 1257 was besieged and taken by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth from the English, who were then in possession of it.

In the woods beneath stands the **Plas**, the seat of Sir Jas. Hamilton Bart.

[3 m. beyond **Llanstephan**, and 3 m. to the S. of **St. Clears**, is the decayed port and town of **Llaugharne**, on the rt. bank of the mouth of the **Tâf**, across which is a ferry. Here is a Norm. castle (W. Norton Esq.), besieged for three weeks by Cromwell, which is inhabited and not shown to strangers. It is said to have been built originally in the 11th centy., and at first called **Abercorran Castle**, from the Corran river which, near it, empties itself into the sea. In the ch. is a set of

priest's robes given by Sir Guido de Brian, who bequeathed lands to the parish, and rebuilt the castle, which had been destroyed by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, in 1215. The ch. and ch.-yd. here are interesting and well kept. There are some venerable yew-trees in the latter. From hence to Tenby it is a beautiful walk of about 15 m. through Marros and Amroth, where many rare kinds of shells may be found. The geologist will find in the limestone rock at **Coygan**, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. on the coast, a bone-cave which has yielded Hyæna, Rhinoceros, Elephant, Horse, Deer, &c. Llaugharne is much sought after for a residence owing to its healthiness, its quiet, and the great cheapness of living.

About 1 m. from the town is an ancient building, supposed to be monastic, called **Roche's Castle**.]

From Ferryside the railway keeps close to the Towy, in the course of which beautiful peeps are obtained of the fertile and well-wooded country on both sides.

On rt. is **Iscoed**. It was the seat of Sir T. Picton, from whence he went to join the campaign of 1815. On the rt. is also **Penbryn**, the seat of Mr. Lewis Morris, the distinguished poet, beautifully situated amidst extensive woods.

Passing through a short cutting in the old red sandstone, the traveller arrives. at 102 m.,

CAERMARTHEN JUNCT., whence radiate so many rlys. that Caermarthen is now placed in immediate connection with all parts of the country.

§ **Caermarthen**, the Maridunum of Ptolemy, stands high on the rt. bank of the Towy, affording lovely views of the vale.

"To Maridunum, that is now by change
Of name Cayr Marddin call'd they took
their way."—*Spenser*.

It is traditionally said to have been the birthplace of the prophet Merlin (whence, according to some, the origin of the name), and was long considered the chief seat of Government by the Welsh princes, before they removed to Dynevor. When the sovereign power was transferred to England, the Exchequer and Mint were retained here, until the separate jurisdiction was abolished.

It is the county town, and possesses considerable historical interest. In the **Town-hall** are portraits of Sir T. Picton, by *Shee*; of Sir W. Nott, and Mr. Jones, of Ystrad, M.P., by *Brigstocke*.

The parish **Church**, St. Peter's, which has been restored, contains a monument of Gen. Nott; one to Bishop Farrar, who was burnt in the market-place in the reign of Mary; and a mutilated but remarkably fine altar-tomb to Sir Rhys ap Thomas, K.G. (died 1527), who commanded the Welsh under Henry at Bosworth, and his wife, Eva, daughter of Henry ap Gwilym of Court Henry. There is another to Anne Lady Vaughan, with a curious inscription. The effigy of Sir Rhys is in armour and Garter robes.

At the W. end of the town stands the **Obelisk** to the memory of the gallant Picton, replacing a monument by *Nash*, which was pulled down in 1846.

There is also a statue of Nott, the hero of Ghuznee, and the son of a Caermarthen innkeeper, in Nott-square, on the spot where the Market-cross formerly stood; and a rather poor monument, in Lammas Street, in memory of the officers and men of the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers who fell in the Crimea. The banners of the same regiment hang up in the chancel of St. Peter's Church. To the E. of the town is the **Parade**; and beyond it, the Pond-side, a lovely walk, looking up the vale of Towy towards Merlin's

Hill and Abergwili; and near it is a fragment of the priory. The scanty remains of the castle are incorporated with the county gaol. It was taken by Owain Glyndwr; it was garrisoned for Charles in the civil wars, but had to yield to the Parliamentary forces under General Laugharne, and was finally dismantled by Cromwell.

In the suburbs are barracks for 1500 soldiers, and $\frac{1}{2}$ m. on the W. of the town is the **Training School** for South Wales, a very handsome building, erected by the Welsh Education Committee in 1847 at a cost of 8000*l.* On the l. bank of the river is

Llangunnor Church, a primitive little building, with some fine old yew-trees, and a superb view of the Towy. Sir R. Steele occasionally resided at Ty-gwyn, now a farmhouse, in this parish, which he had acquired by marriage with one of the Scurlock family, in whose vault at St. Peter's Church, Caermarthen, he was buried. At the house since converted into the Ivy Bush Hotel, he composed his 'Constant Lover' and many other dramatic pieces, and he died in King-street. A plain mural tablet in Llangunnor church (erected by a Pembroke-shire squire) records in somewhat stilted and exaggerated language Steele's connection with that parish.

The **Quay** extends for some distance to the rt. of the bridge; but the number of vessels belonging to the port is not large, as the navigation of the river is difficult and devious.

110 m. **St. Clears**, a little port on the Tâf, at its confluence with the Gynin. The site of the Norman castle is marked by a tumulus. It is mentioned by Giraldus Cambrensis in his 'Itinerary,' and was

captured by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth in 1214.

About 2 m. distance, upon the opposite side of the estuary at **Llanfihangel Abercowyn**, are 3 remarkable tombs, well worthy of inspection. They are traditionally said to have been those of 3 holy palmers who wandered thither in great distress, and being fearful of dying of want, slew each other, the last survivor's strength not being equal to the task of pulling the stone over him, and it remains in the oblique position in which he left it. The peasantry believe that as long as these stones are kept from moss and weeds, no venomous creature can exist on the peninsula.

3 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. on l. of St. Clears is Llaugharne.

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. l. **Llandowror**.

116 m. **WHITLAND JUNCT.**, where the Caermarthen and Tenby line branches off to Tenby and Pembroke, in connection with the Central Wales system (Rte. 24). Another rly. along the Tâf to Cardigan was completed in 1886. 2 m. rt. is **Whitland Abbey**, the seat of the Hon. W. Yelverton, who has erected a modern house on the site of Alba Lauda, or Ty Gwyn ar Tâf, the White House on the Tâf. This monastic house, said to have been founded about the 5th centy. by Paulinus, was afterwards occupied by the Cistercians, a colony of whom went hence, at the invitation of Cadwallon ap Madoc, to build and found Abbey Cwmhir in Radnorshire. Wharton ascribes its origin to Bernard, Bishop of St. David's, 1115-1147. But little remains of the ancient building, save some portions of clustered pillars. The situation on the Tâf is extremely pretty.

It was at this place that Howell dda, or Howell the Good, convened

that assembly of nobles and ecclesiastics (1282) of his principality, which "abrogated and consolidated" the existing laws into a code still known as Howell the Good's Code.

Whitland was a favourite residence of the Cambrian legislator, and here he erected that house of white wattles, of which such frequent mention is made by the old chroniclers.

122 m. **Narberth Road Stat.**, distant from Narberth $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. (Rte. 24). The Preseley Hills form a fine background to the landscape on the rt. The tall tower of Templeton ch. stands out in the distance to the left. (See Rte. 24.)

129 m. **Clarbeston Road Stat.** From hence the line is carried through a more picturesque part of the country, as it follows the circuitous windings of the Cartlett brook to

134 m. \S **Haverfordwest** (Rte. 25), finely placed on a hill overlooking the waters of the western Cleddau, navigable as high as the bridge for small craft. It is a clean, well-built town, and presents an appearance of liveliness, partly owing to its excellent markets, and pleasant public walks, and partly to the number of persons who have made it their residence from motives of retirement and economy. The name of Haverford (fiord) bears testimony to the frequent incursions, and even settlements, of the Danes along this coast. Those of Stackpole, Gateholm, Stockholm, Skomer, Musselwick, Ramsey, Strumble, Swansea, on the same coast, are clearly of the same origin. Little remains of the castle except the keep, built into the solid rock, and a strong outer wall of connecting towers, which is occupied by the county gaol; it had, however, its [S. Wales.]

place in history from the days of its founder, Gilbert de Clare, first Earl of Pembroke, until it was demolished in 1648 by order of the Parliament, the Mayor and Corporation only demurring to the tax of providing the gunpowder, a tax for which was accordingly levied on the whole county. It was visited by Giraldus and Archbishop Baldwin, and besieged by Owain Glyndwr. **St. Mary's Church** is one of the finest in S. Wales, and should not be forgotten by the visitor. It possesses a clerestory, an unusual feature in Welsh churches. The nave is remarkable for the beauty of its roof-carving, and is separated from the side aisle by pointed arches resting upon clustered pillars, with grotesque sculptured capitals. A lofty arch separates the nave from the chancel, which has a very finely-traced E. window. Indeed, each window deserves careful notice. The end of an old chancel-stall represents St. Michael victorious over the dragons, and there is in the W. end of the ch., removed from the chancel, a recumbent effigy of a pilgrim to the shrine of St. Jude, with satchel and scallops.

St. Martin's Church appears to have been an appendage to the castle, and is an old building, with a long nave and chancel, and a S. aisle. There is also a ch. of St. Thomas within the precincts of the town. Outside the town, on the river's bank near the rly. bridge, is the ruin of a priory of Black Canons of the Order of St. Augustin, covering a large area. The ch. was cruciform, with a central tower, supported by 4 handsome pointed arches. Haverfordwest has all the steepness and narrowness of a typical Welsh town. In the neighbourhood are Glanafon (Xavier Peel, Esq.); Withybush (W. Owen, Esq.); and Cottesmoor (E. T. Massey, Esq.).

5 m. to E. is **Picton Castle** (the seat of Rev. J. H. A. Phillips),

strikingly placed, a little above the confluence of the 2 Cleddaus, which are here of considerable breadth. This is one of the very few Norman castles remaining in the kingdom which "have never been forfeited, never deserted, never burnt," and has been inhabited by a line of successive proprietors since the time of William Rufus. Built by William de Picton, a comrade of Arnulph de Montgomery, it passed by marriage from his descendants to the Wogans, and in like manner from the Wogans to the Donnes. Jane Donne, heiress of Sir Richard Donne, carried it as dower to Sir Thomas Philips of Cilsant in the reign of Richard III., with whose posterity, direct or indirect, it has since remained. It stood a sharp siege during the Civil Wars, when Sir Richard Phillips, the then owner, garrisoned it for the king. Some, architecturally speaking, barbarous additions and alterations have been made at the western end, but, with this exception, the structure is substantially the same as that which William de Picton founded 7 centuries ago. At the further end of the very beautiful walk leading to Slebech, shaded by magnificent oaks and overhanging the river, is an encampment called the **Castle Lake**.

Close to Picton is the fine demesne of **Slebech** (Baron de Rutzen), an ancient commandery of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem (commemorated by the bard, Lewis Glyn Cothi, in the Wars of the Roses), wherein is still preserved a sword used at the installation of the Knights of St. John.

Upon the summit of the hill, close to the Haverfordwest road, is the E. Eng. (new) ch. of Slebech, ambitious but singularly out of place.

In front, and stretching for many miles, is the ancient forest of **Canaston**, which, although the trees are of small size, gives the visitor more thoroughly the idea of an ancient forest than any other in the county.

At **Newhouse** are the ruins of a castalet, which was probably erected by the Canaston family upon their first settlement in Wales. Upon the western verge of the forest, and not far from Newhouse, is a strong intrenchment, worthy of a visit.

Some traces of Roman mining operations are visible in some parts of the subordinate wood of **Minivear**, and some ingenious persons have contended that they sought here for gold upon the supposition that Minivear is a corruption of "Mwyn Awr," or the gold ore.

In the county of Pembroke, as far N. as Haverfordwest, the Welsh language is not spoken; its inhabitants being supposed to be the descendants of a colony of Flemings, who, driven from their own country by a fearful inundation caused by a rupture of the sea-dykes (1105), were settled here by Hen. I., along with the Norman conquerors of the country. Haverfordwest was probably the central position of this colony for trade and defence of their territory. On the accession of Hen. II., the settlement was reinforced by the Flemish mercenaries who had served under Stephen, and were banished hither by the new king. Engaged in constant feuds and open warfare with their Welsh neighbours, they retained their own manners and customs as well as language for ages, and it is remarkable that the line which divides the English and Welsh languages generally was, until lately, distinct and defined—as distinct and defined as 650 years ago. The cottages of the peasants are frequently built of a compound of straw and clay, called "clom," similar to the Devonshire "col," and display peculiarities of structure, more especially in the form of the chimneys, supposed to be derived from their Flemish ancestors.

[At 129 m., JOHNSTON JUNCT., a short branch is given off to **§ Milford**. The town of Milford is splendidly situated on the rt. side of the Haven, about 6 m. from its mouth, between two small creeks opposite an anchorage called the Man-of-War Road. It was entirely the creation, in 1790, of Hon. C. F. Greville, who inherited the property from his uncle, Sir W. Hamilton, the British Envoy at the Court of Naples, and consists of 3 parallel streets ranged along the hillside, commanding fine views of the harbour. It has been now for years a dull desolate place, extinguished by the removal of the Royal Dockyard in 1811, followed by that of the Irish Post-office and packet establishment, by which trade was reduced to stagnation, and many houses shut up. A brighter future, however, is dawning upon it: the unequalled capabilities of the Haven are again being recognised. A well-appointed service of Irish steamers has been organised from the terminus of the S. Wales Railway, and the great chain of railway communication completed to Manchester and the northern manufacturing districts. As a harbour, Milford Haven has not its equal in the whole world; for it is capable of anchoring in safety the entire fleet of England. There is a handsome ch. erected at the E. of the town by Mr. Greville, on a spot which was designed to be the centre. It contains a vase of red Egyptian porphyry, brought to this country by Dr. Pococke, and inscribed to the memory of Nelson; it was intended to serve as a font, but was pronounced too heathenish. There is also the twisted vane of the mainmast of the French admiral's ship 'L'Orient,' blown up at the battle of the Nile. Sir William Hamilton is buried here.

The estuary of **Milford Haven** stretches for 10 m. inland, varying in breadth from 1 to 2 m., having 5

bays, 10 creeks, and 13 roadsteads, affording anchorage to the largest ships. The tide, passing up through its ramifications into the very heart of the county, washes the towns of Pembroke and Haverfordwest, situated at the extremity of two of its forks. It is well sheltered from storms by undulating hills around, which being destitute of trees, and only scantily clad with vegetation, present a desolate rather than a picturesque aspect. A vessel may safely run in without anchor or cable, as there are from 15 to 19 fathoms of water in most parts. Its importance was appreciated at an early period, and is attested by historical events which have occurred here. From Milford Haven the fleet of Hen. II. set out to conquer Ireland, and here the French invading army, 12,000 strong, sent over to co-operate with Owain Glyndwr against Hen. IV., effected their landing. Here Henry, the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Hen. VII., disembarked with a scanty retinue of followers from Brittany; but being received with open arms by Sir Rhys ap Thomas, and a chosen body of Welsh troops under his command, set forth to win a crown at Bosworth. **Dale Castle** (J. A. P. Lloyd Philipps, Esq.), near the creek where Richmond landed; **St. Botolphs**, **Butter Hill** (G. Roche, Esq.); **Castle Hill**, the old seat of the Grevilles, and other pleasant residences, dot the coast-line between Milford Haven and St. Bride's Bay.

Fortifications have been added by the Government at Scoveston, Pop-ton Pt., South Hook Pt., West Blockhouse Pt., Dale Pt., Stack Rock, and Thorn Island.]

144 m. is **§ New Milford**, the terminus of the South Wales Rly., situated directly opposite Pater and Hobbs Point. The railway runs down to the water's edge, where bag-

gage and goods are transferred to the Irish steamers. The distance from London is 285 m. Steamers convey the traveller to Hobbs Point, formerly the point of departure for the Irish mails, to Pembroke Dock, immediately opposite (Rte. 24).

ROUTE 3.

FROM HEREFORD TO CHEPSTOW, BY
ROSS AND MONMOUTH.

The River Wye.

Hereford (Rte. 4) is quitted by the Great Western Rly., which connects it with Gloucester. Until 1869 this portion of the rly. was on the broad-gauge system, and it is worthy of notice that the conversion to the narrow-gauge between Hereford and Gloucester was performed in four days, a distance of 30 m. The line runs in loving fellowship with the Wye as far as Ross, where the tourist has the choice of continuing his journey either by land or water. Soon after leaving the **Barrs Court** Stat., it crosses the Wye at Eign, and passes, 2 m. on l., **Rotherwas**, the seat of C. T. Bodenham, Esq., an old-fashioned red-brick house, built about the time of James I., who is said to have stopped here for a night and enjoyed the hospitality of Sir Roger Bodenham. The Bodenham family, which has been located here since the marriage, in the reign of Edward III., of Thomas Bodenham with Isabella, daughter of Walter de la Barr, suffered severely for their loyalty in the civil wars.

Old Ray in his proverbs (1678) cites this one as belonging to Herefordshire, "Every one cannot dwell at Rotheras,"—"a delicate seat," he explains, "of the Bodnams in Herefordshire." On the rt., and, indeed, partly tunnelled under by the Rly., is **Dinedor Hill**, from whence a lovely view is obtained of the surrounding country, causing it to be a favourite summer's walk with the townsfolk of Hereford. On the summit is a Roman camp, supposed to be that of Ostorius Scapula, in token of which it is still called Oyster Hill by the vulgar. Soon after passing Rotherwas, a fine range of hills backs up the landscape on the l., gradually approaching the river towards the S. The villages of **Mordiford** and **Fownhope** lie at the base of these hills, which are classic ground to the geologist and were the scene of a considerable portion of Sir Roderick Murchison's labours.

The E. Eng. ch. of **Fownhope**, with Norm. details, restored 1853, and having a central Norman tower, with modern wooden spire, 50 ft. high, contains memorials of a branch of the Lechmeres, who have been located at the **Court**, a timber mansion of the 16th cent., since the reign of Elizabeth.

2 m. N. is **Suften Court** (R. Hereford, Esq.), built of Bath stone, 1790, from designs by *Smirke*; the grounds were laid out by *Repton*. Below it is Old Suften, a curious timber house of the 15th cent., now occupied as a farmhouse. The estate has been enjoyed by the ancestors of the present owner since 1230, and held by the homage of presenting the king with a pair of gilt spurs when he passed across the river Lugg, which unites with the Wye below Mordiford, a parish deriving its name, as well as its local myth of a poisonous dragon which

was depicted on the exterior of the ch., from the stagnant *marsh* formed by the junction of the Lugg and Wye. The visitor can cross the Wye by a bridge of 3 arches to

4 m. **Holme Lacy Stat.**

On rt. is **Holme Lacy House** (Sir Henry Scudamore Stanhope, Bart.), one of the finest seats in the county. The building has 3 fronts with projecting wings, the N. and E. fronts being 200 ft. in length, while the S. front is 150. In the interior are some splendid apartments, especially the saloon, which is decorated with beautiful wood-carvings by *Grinling Gibbons*. There are also some family portraits, paintings by *Holbein*, *Vandyck*, and *Sir Peter Lely*, and a head of Lord Strafford, copied in crayons from *Vandyck* by Pope. The gardens are extensive, and present a singularly perfect specimen of the topiary art, with their trimmed yew-tree hedges, and alleys answering alleys; whilst the beds preserve the best features of the old English flower-garden. In the Park adjoining, as well as in the pleasure-grounds, are many noble trees; indeed, the oaks in Price's Walk are among the finest in the country. The "Monarch Oak" girths 21 ft. 10 in. at 5 ft. from the ground; the "Trysting Oak," 27 ft. 5 in. at 3 ft. from the ground; and there is at Holme Lacy a *Wellingtonia*, planted in Nov. 1855, which at 16 years old was 27 ft. high, and at 5 ft. from the ground was 3 ft. 6 in. in girth. The gardens are shown to the public on Tuesdays from 10 A.M. till 1 P.M., during July, August, and September. The estate came into the possession of the Scudamore family in the reign of Edward III., by the marriage of Lady Clara Lacy with Thomas Scudamore. The greater portion of the house was rebuilt by the 2nd Viscount Scudamore, after the style of a French *château*, and the approach to it from the S.W. led

into a spacious quadrangle occupied by the stables and offices. Great alterations, not it would seem for the better, were made by the late baronet on succeeding to the title. Of this family, John Scudamore was an esquire of the body to Henry VIII.; Sir James, knighted for his bravery at the siege of Calais, is noticed by Fuller as "a man famous and fortunate in his time;" and the "Sir Scudamore" of Spenser's 'Faëry Queen,' John, 1st Viscount Scudamore, Ambassador to France 1634, suffered severely for his loyalty during the Civil Wars. To him the county is indebted for the improvement of its orchards and its breed of cattle.

The **Church**, in the Norm. style, is situated near the river, and contains some family monuments, including one of the Duchess of Norfolk, who died in 1820. Near the parsonage is a remarkable pear-tree, covering a large space, and yielding at periods 14 hogsheads of perry.

The line now runs under the **Ballingham** hill, a heavy work of 1200 yds.

3 m. 1. is **Caplar Hill**, wooded to the water's edge. On its summit is a double-intrenched Roman camp, in a very perfect condition. A considerable portion of the stone for building the Cathedral of Hereford was quarried here. In April, 1773, a remarkable landslip occurred here of 5 acres of land, which not only removed stones of considerable weight, but carried trees in an upright and undisturbed position.

The Wye is again crossed and a tunnel of 530 yards entered, at the other end of which is

8 m. **Fawley Stat.**, in a deep red sandstone cutting. The **Court**, now a farmhouse, is a good specimen of an Elizabethan mansion, with an embattled parapet, now the pro-

party of Col. Money Kyrle. Sir John Kyrle resided in it temp. Charles I. Fawley is a chapelry of Fownhope.

Aramstone (Wyndham Smith, Esq.), on rt., was a seat of the Woodhouse family, erected early in the last centy.

Cross the Wye for the third time. On rt.,

! 3 m., is **Harewood**, late the seat of Chandos Wren Hoskyns, Esq. In his poem of 'Elfrida,' Mason assigns this locality for the forest which once occupied this district and contained the castle of Earl Ethelwold, who was assassinated in 968 by King Edgar. Harewood, which became the property of the Hoskyns family by purchase in 1654, had a chapel attached to it, which is mentioned by Silas Taylor. This has given place to a beautiful E. Eng. ch. erected in 1864. In the grounds are a fine oak, a Spanish chestnut of fine dimensions, and some beeches 100 ft. high.

Near it is **Llanfrawther**, a retired spot in which a noted British seminary flourished under Dubritius.

On the high ground to the l. is **Perrystone**, a modern mansion erected by the late George Clive, Esq., on the site of the old house purchased by him from Colonel H. Morgan Clifford. Perrystone is in the parish of Foy.

Crossing the Wye for the fourth time, and passing rt. **Bridstow** E. Eng. Church, restored 1861; *Mara-thon*, and *Dadnor* (A. Armitage, Esq.), the rly. crosses.

12 m. S. Ross Stat. Ross is a market town of 6000 Inhab., with very steep streets, pleasantly situated on an eminence rising from the l. bank of the river. "Through the midst of the valley runs the Wye, which seems in no way to quit the country; but, like a hare which is

unwilling to leave her habitation, makes a hundred turns and doubles."

It is the point from which travellers start to explore the beauties of the river, for which pleasure boats are in readiness. Gray and Gilpin wrote this lovely scenery into celebrity, and Lord North, when Premier, made the tour in 1776. *John Kyrle*, Pope's 'Man of Ross,' a plain country gentleman, born in 1637, at Dymock, and educated at Balliol, Oxford, to which College he gave a tankard, resided here, and was buried in the ch. 1724. His merits, though great from his acts of benevolence and usefulness, have probably been surpassed by many to fame unknown, "Carent quia vate sacro." Pope, by the way, is said to have composed his 'Man of Ross' at Pengethley, in the parish of Hentland, near Ross.

The **Church**, in Dec. and Perp. styles, whose 'heaven-directed spire he taught to rise,' and to the tower of which he gave the great bell, occupies a conspicuous position. The E. window of the chancel contains very good stained glass, inserted about the reign of Henry VII. The spire was seriously injured by lightning in 1852, but has been rebuilt with great care and success; its height is 208 ft. Several of the elm-trees planted by Kyrle survive, while some that were cut down have sent forth under the walls vigorous shoots, which grow within the building. He was buried under a blue stone in front of the altar, and a tablet on the wall was affixed in 1776, through a bequest for that purpose by Lady Dupplin, his kinswoman. His fireside chair is placed in the chancel. A church bell, cast at Gloucester by Rudhall, in 1702, bears Kyrle's name. He threw his silver tankard into the furnace, at the casting, after drinking to his king and country.

Amongst the monuments are those of William Rudhall, serjeant-at-law,

and his wife (temp. Henry VIII.): their effigies exquisitely sculptured in Italian marble, in the costume of Henry VII. Also a large mural monument to William Rudhall and his wife Margaret (1609), in a kneeling position and Elizabethan dress. John Rudhall (1636), holding his wife by the hand; and for the last heir male of the family William Rudhall (1651), an officer in the Royalist army, who stands erect in marble, arranged in the costume of a Roman general, with a modern sword. This well-executed piece of statuary was erected as a pledge of affection by a maiden lady, Maria Suron. There is a white marble bust of Mr. Westfaling, d. 1814, by *Theed* (with a Latin inscription from the pen of Bishop Luxmoore), on a pedestal in the form of an altar; in front is a bas-relief of Charity instructing children.

Among the memorials in the ch.-yd. is a slender E. Eng. cross by *G. G. Scott*, to a daughter of Geo. Strong, M.D.; it rises 20 ft. from the ground, and the shaft consists of 4 clustered columns pointed by an enrichment of dog-tooth moulding. In the N.E. corner are remains of a decayed cross, marking 315 burials from the ravages of the plague.

On the brow of the hill overlooking the Wye, and adjoining the ch.-yd., is the **Prospect** which belonged to Kyrle, and was his favourite walk. There is a convenient private access to it from the grounds of the Royal Hotel. Here stood the Conduit which was supplied with water from the rain by an engine at his expense.

"From the dry rock who bale the water flow?"

"He feeds the almshouse, neat yet void of state;

There age and want sit smiling at the gate," refers to the Rudhall hospital, which stood at a corner of the ch.-yd.

The "Prospect" has been partly enclosed in the grounds of the hotel, which caused serious riots in 1869, a large portion of the inhabitants declaring that it belonged to the public.

The old market house, in which the Man of Ross "divided the weekly bread," is disused, and a commodious building erected on another site. The house—now a chemist's shop—occupied by John Kyrle is in the market-place; and that in which Charles I. slept was in Church Lane.

At Ross the traveller may bid adieu to the locomotive, and journey either by the turnpike road or water; in either case following a route probably unrivalled for that peculiar style of scenic beauty that results from the mixture of rich and well-cultivated grass-land with abrupt cliffs, lofty hills, and woods descending to the water's edge. At the bottom of the descent the Wye is crossed by an old bridge of 5 arches, defended by **Wilton Castle**, the shell of which remains as a picturesque ruin at the water's edge on the rt. First erected in the reign of Stephen to defend the ford, and rebuilt temp Elizabeth, it was partially demolished during the Civil Wars. It belonged to the Lords Grey de Wilton until 1555, when Edward Lord Grey, being a prisoner in France, was compelled to sell this and other estates to raise the sums demanded for his ransom. It was purchased in the reign of Elizabeth by the Hon. Charles Brydges, cup-bearer to King Philip, second son of Sir John Brydges, first Baron Chandos, with whose descendants it continued until the reign of George I., when, in 1722, it was sold by the Duke of Chandos to the Governors of Guy's Hospital. It is quadrilateral, with 2 round towers at the S. angles; those to the N. being triangular. On the E. side is a semicircular bastion.

"The oldest portion of the existing remains is the S.W. tower, but the Castle was doubtless remodelled in the 15th centy.; and the windows which escaped destruction in the Civil War show plainly that the building at that time was rather a castellated mansion than a military fortress."—*Robinson*: 'Castles of Herefordshire.'

The piers of the **bridge** erected in 1559 are massive. The arch nearest Wilton was broken down in 1644, by Col. William Rudhall, to impede the advance of Massie's forces.

$\frac{3}{4}$ m. At the turnpike, the road to Hereford is on rt.; that to Monmouth on l., running close alongside of the river, and affording good views of its graceful windings. At one point the picturesque spire and turrets of Goodrich Court are well seen, and beyond it the rugged outline of Goodrich Castle, the last fortress, except Pendennis, which held out for the king. On the rt. of the road the cliff is prettily draped with wild brier and eglantine falling from above.

15 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Pencraig Court** (Rev. W. Holt-Beever), commanding a fine view; and $\frac{1}{2}$ m. beyond, on the summit of the hill, is **Goodrich Court**, the seat of George Moffatt, Esq., at the entrance of which is a handsome lodge with an Edwardian arch, drum towers, and high shingled roof. A drawbridge is crossed to the doorway, guarded by a portcullis, and flanked by two round towers. The house, a modern one, was built in the same Edwardian style by Sir Samuel Meyrick in 1828-31, to form a depository for his curiosities, amongst which the arms and armour (now in the South Kensington Museum) were unrivalled in any private collection in Europe. The same attention is paid to the arrangement of the antique furniture as to the exterior appearance of the mansion. Visitors are admitted on certain days, about

which enquiry should be made beforehand. In the great drawing-room are portraits of Lord Howard of Effingham, who commanded the English fleet against the Armada; Anne of Denmark; Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. In the private apartments are a carving in wood by *Hans Schaufelin*; miniature portraits of Henry VIII. and Anne of Cleves, *Holbein*; Luther and wife, *L. Kranach*. The oak ceiling of the library was executed in Italy, and brought from the Government House at Breda. There are also portraits of Charles II., Louis XIV., and Nell Gwynn, by *Lely*. The **Doucean Museum**, containing a valuable collection of Greek, Roman, Egyptian, and Oriental antiquities, bequeathed by Francis Douce, Esq., to the late Sir S. Meyrick, was removed by Col. Meyrick when he sold Goodrich Court.

Separated by a dingle, and on an eminence to the l., overhanging the river, is **Goodrich Castle**, the beautiful situation of which at once arrests the attention. Externally the most striking feature of the ivy-clad ruins is the gate-way, showing beneath its arches the lofty window of the opposite tower. The plan of the castle was a parallelogram, flanked by round towers at the angles, and the entrance is carried through a narrow passage 50 ft. long, constructed for a number of successive portcullises. On the W. side is the Edwardian banqueting hall, and on the S., festooned with ivy and clematis, the keep, wrongly said to be Anglo-Saxon, though certainly the most ancient part of the castle. Adjoining the entrance, and parallel with the passage on its left side, was the chapel (temp. Henry VI. and VII.), and close by it an octagonal watch-tower. A small fort, erected by one Godric, seems to have been the origin of Goodrich, whose principal history, however, took place in the Civil

War, when, in 1646, it held out gallantly under Sir Henry Lingens for the king against a Parliamentary army, under Col. Birch. The three-storied Norman keep is said to have been built by Macbeth, an Irish commander, as a ransom for himself and son, who were made prisoners in the fortress. It was successively the residence of the Marshalls and De Valences, Earls of Pembroke, and the Talbots, until, in 1606, it passed with a co-heiress to the Greys, Earls of Kent, with which noble family it remained until the reign of George II., when it was sold to Admiral Griffin, of Hadnock, near Monmouth, to whose granddaughter, Mrs. Marriott, widow of Major Charles Marriott of the Fort, Monmouth, it now belongs. Goodrich Castle specially deserves a visit, both from its excellent preservation and its situation. The keys are kept in a cottage in the village. About a quarter of a mile from the castle are the faint vestiges of an Augustinian Priory, founded by Sir Richard Talbot in 1347.

From the S.W. window there is a charming view of the vale of the Wye,—

"the delight of my eyes and the very seat of pleasure."—*G. ay.*

with Ross in the distance, backed up by the wooded outline of Penyard Hill; in the foreground are Walford church and village, and on the rt. the woods of Bishopswood. In Goodrich church (which is double aisled) is preserved a chalice presented by Dean Swift, whose grandfather was the loyal and much-enduring vicar of the parish at the time of the rebellion. The Dean's connection with the locality has been celebrated in the following remarkable lines :—

"Jonathan Swift
Had this gift—
By fatheridge, brotheridge,
And by motheridge,
To come from Gotheridge."

On l. are **Rocklands** (J. M. Herbert, Esq.), and **Goodrich House** (Rev. J. Herbert). The Marquis of Ripon derives his title of Viscount from this parish.

Just below is **Huntsham Ferry**, where Henry IV., hastening to Monmouth to see his Queen, who was near her confinement, was met by a messenger announcing the birth of his son Henry and the safety of his wife. In gratitude the King bestowed the ferry upon the person and his descendants for ever, a grant which still exists.

6 m. **Whitchurch**, picturesquely situated in a deep hollow, with a small church by the river-side, is a village lying in the midst of a district famous for its beautiful scenery, and rich in attractions for the angler, the botanist, and the geologist.

On **Little Doward Hill**, which lies to the W. of the Great Doward, is an early British camp of large dimensions, comprising nearly 20 acres within the inner vallum. The outer vallum is constructed to the point where the hill rises very abruptly from the river, and approach appears to be impossible. On the brow of the hill, overlooking the Wye, huge masses of rock stand out in rugged boldness, and the view of the river winding beneath the deep gorge of well-wooded rocks is very fine. On the opposite side is "**Symond's Yat**," on which Ostorius is supposed to have stationed his forces. Here, according to Gibson's 'Camden,' were found "broad arrow-heads, and a giant skeleton, which, if still on view, would establish the modern 'deterioration' theory."

8 m. **Ganerew**. [To the rt. is **Sellers Brook** (Mrs. Marriott) and (2½ m.) **Buckholt Mt.**, on the S. spur of which is a strong British

camp, overgrown with underwood. 4 m. are the ruins of **Pembridge Castle**, the residence of Sir Richard Pembridge, 1375. The remains are surrounded by a moat, having on W. side a terrace 25 ft. in width, defended by a banquette of earth, and are in a comparatively perfect condition. In the Civil Wars it was garrisoned for the King, and taken by Massie in 1644.] On l. is **Wyaston Leys**, the charming seat of Mrs. Bannerman, situated on a steep slope at the bend of the Wye, and commanding unrivalled views both up and down the river. On the top of the hill, in the park, is an observatory of iron trestlework, 70 ft. in height, with an open winding staircase, commanding exquisite views of the Wye and the Bristol Channel.

The great Doward may be ascended by the pedestrian from the Monmouth end of the village of Whitchurch, though it is rather a rugged and toilsome march. To repay him when he has accomplished it are several "bone-caves," similar to that known as King Arthur's Cave on the western slope, which have been explored by Mr. W. S. Symonds and Prof. Boyd Dawkins, and have been found to contain the bones of the hyæna and the cave lion, the reindeer, mammoth, and the tichorhine rhinoceros. Several rare plants flourish on this hill, *e.g.*, the *Fly* and *Bee orchis*, *Carex montana*, *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Arabis stricta*, *Geranium sanguineum*, *G. lucidum*, and a rare bramble, commemorated by Mr. E. Lees, and called *Rubus ballidus*. From a resting-point at about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. from the nearest cave, the tourist catches a splendid view of Monmouth and the Wye.

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. Monmouth.

Another route may be taken from Ross, on the left bank of the Wye, towards **Lydbrook**, past Whythall, a

picturesque old manor-house, occupied by Cromwell during the siege of Goodrich Castle, and ascending to the forest by Kiln Green and Dundle Hole. By this route the traveller passes Walford and Bishopswood, which will be noticed in the account of the Rly. and the Wye tours from Ross to Monmouth.

The Wye Tour.—The tourist by water from Ross loses companionship with the road at Goodrich Court, and sails down the current of "devious Vaga," which indeed becomes so meandering, that the distance from hence to the Leys, which by road is only 4 m., is not much less than 12 by water.

Passing Goodrich Court and Castle, the boat reaches

Kerne Bridge, just above which on the rt. is a barn, the remains of **Flanesford Priory**, founded by Richard Talbot in 1347. A road here crosses the river from Ross to Monmouth on the l. bank, passing through the pretty village of **Walford**. In their progress down the river, visitors will see small fishing-boats called *coracles*, made of tarred canvas strained over a wicker frame in shape like the half of a walnut-shell. They are very light and portable, weighing about 12 lbs., very fragile, holding only one person, and a rub against a stone in shooting a rapid generally causes mischief. They are used also on the Usk and the Dee and the Teifi.

The scenery now becomes more diversified, the Wye flowing between beautifully wooded hills. About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. below the bridge on l. is the villa of **Hazlehurst** (Miss Phillips), and lower down **Bishopswood House** (W. Partridge, Esq.). In the distance is the spire of Ruardean Church.

On a considerable eminence, the river winding with snakelike turnings on each side of it, is **Courtfield**

(Col. Vaughan), occupying the site of a house of the Countess of Salisbury, where Henry V. is said to have been nursed; and in **Welsh Bicknor Church**, on the rt. bank, is a monumental effigy supposed to have been that of the king's nurse, but declared by the late Sir Samuel Meyrick to be of the time of Edward I. The Countess of Salisbury's husband had inherited the Manor of Welsh Bicknor from his mother Katherine, daughter of William de Grandison; and she was a widow in 1397, and died in 1414. The ch. of Welsh Bicknor is quite modern, and in the Norm. and E. E. styles.

At **Lydbrook**, on the l. bank, nearly opposite Courtfield, the tourist is in touch with a branch of the Midl. Rlwy. Co., which will take him to Bristol and the North, crossing the Severn by Severn Bridge.

Dropping down the stream, the tourist next arrives at **Coldwell Rocks**, which present a combination of river scenery as fine as any in Britain. The rt. bank is guarded by a range of high precipitous limestone rocks, overhung with underwood and traversed by deep gullies, while on the opposite side the delicious hill of **Rosemary Topping** affords a magnificent and beautiful contrast. At the termination of this range of crags the Wye takes a sudden bend and a sweep of such unexpected length, that the distance across the neck of the peninsula, where the tourist can rejoin the river, is only 600 yards, while its windings extend for more than 4 m. To save time, the visitor is recommended to send the boat round by **Huntsham Ferry** and **Whitchurch**, and ascend **Symond's Yat**, or Gate, a high hill, occupying the interval between the bend. From the summit (540 ft.) a view is gained unrivalled for beauty and variety. On the rt. are the romantic rocks of

Coldwell, with the river running in a deep gorge below; on the l. is another reach at New Weir, hemmed in by the steep sides of the Great Doward, while in the distance the eye ranges over the villages, woods, and hills, for miles and miles.

"But Wye (from her dear Lug whom nothing can restrain
In many a pleasant shade her joy to entertain)

To Ross her course directs, and well her name to show,
Oft windeth in her way, as back she meant to go.

Meander, who is said so intricate to be
Hath not so many nooks or cranking winds as she."—*Drayton*

On the l. from Symond's Yat, are the **Bicknor Walks**, extending for a mile or more towards Bicknor Court and the village of English Bicknor, and looking down for the whole of the way on the silver winding Wye. Except in the steep ascent, the character of these walks is not unlike that of the Torrent Walks under Dolgelly.

[The scenery is equally beautiful at **New Weir**, where formerly existed a salmon weir. This fish was once so plentiful, that the apprentices of Ross and Monmouth are said to have had a clause inserted in their indentures to the effect that they should not be obliged to eat it more than three times a week. On the rt. bank is the lofty encampment of the Great Doward, jagged with many quarries and perforated by mining galleries supposed to be Roman. One is called King Arthur's Hall. Another turn of the river brings the tourist in front of the **Little Doward Hill**, on which is a British camp, still retaining traces of ramparts. At its foot, sloping down to the river, is the park of **Wyaston**, formerly the *Leys*, soon after which the river again joins fellowship with the turnpike-road. Soon after passing the *Leys* the river enters Monmouthshire,

having Hadnock and its woods on the l., and **Newton** (Major Tyler) on the rt.]

9½ on l. **Dixton**, a small ancient church with a low broach-spire. The ch. here is so close to the river bank that in the heavy floods of 1759 and 1798 the inundation is said to have burst through windows, and torn up the pulpit, seats, &c. The vicarage is on the opposite bank of the Wye. Here may not unfrequently be seen that old-world institution—the “coracle.”

[The wooded hill above, on the opposite bank, is the **Kymin**, from the summit of which is a glorious panorama of the country round for many a league. Walks have been made through the plantations to a pavilion and a temple, built to record the naval victories obtained by the English during the American war. It was erected in 1800, and the frieze is decorated with medallions of British Admirals. From hence a short but beautiful walk through Bewdley or Beaulieu Wood will bring the visitor to the **Buckstone**, one of the most celebrated Rocking-Stones in England, which has, however, been recently thrown out of place by the foolish horse-play of some visitors. It is situated on a conspicuous eminence of Staunton Hill (954 ft.), the circumference being about 53 ft., and the apex of the point about 3 ft. in diameter. It is said to have derived its name from being the usual spot for hearkening to the hounds, when in pursuit of deer through the forest. The stone itself is of old red conglomerate, and it is most probable that it has been detached from the underlying rock by natural causes. **Staunton Church** is of late Norm. character, with E. E. and Dec. alterations. It possesses an ancient stone pulpit and a font apparently fashioned out of a Roman altar. The stone pulpit

is reached by a staircase conducting also to the rood-loft, and is said to have been built up for many years to hide it from the Puritans. This church has been well and thoroughly restored. There is a *maenhir* in this parish.]

There is no doubt that the Romans were here, the very name of **Stane Town**, or the **Town of the Stone Street**, implying it: and in corroboration there are traces of a Roman road leading up the **Kymin** from the river-bank, besides intrenchments near the ch. and heaps of slag or cinders.

10½ m. ♂ **Monmouth**, so called from its situation at the confluence of the **Monnow** with the **Wye** (Rte. 5). The entrance to the town, which is said to have been on the site of the Roman *Blestium*, is rather striking. On the l. is the parish church, with a handsome Dec. tower and spire, while in front of it, a Perpendicular window and panelled wall remain as fragments of the **Priory**, and known as **Geoffrey of Monmouth's study**. On the rt. the road is seen almost to overhang the **Monnow**, the market-house standing quite on the edge of the cliff. The market-place, ambitiously called **Agincourt Square**, contains, in front of the town-hall, a statue of **Henry V.**, on which is an inscription recording his birth in the town, Aug. 9, 1387,—

“Ay, he was born at Monmouth, Captain Gower;”

so that the waters of the **Wye** may not wash the fact out of the memories of the modern **Fluellens**. Here too is said to have been born **Geoffrey of Monmouth**, or **Geoffrey ap Arthur**, sometime archdeacon of his native town, consecrated Bishop of **St. Asaph** in 1152, and writer or compiler of a romantic chronicle of England.

The **portcullis**, which henceforth, for many miles, will be seen every now and then, will remind the traveller that he is now within the vast hereditary possessions of the house of Somerset; and if he stay at this particular Beaufort Arms, he may discover that there still "is salmons" in the Wye. The main street is broad, and the houses strike one with an air of ancient irregularity that is highly respectable. The road to Raglan crosses the Monnow by an old bridge, upon which still remains the Welsh or **Bridge Gate**, with two side passages, under which Henry V. doubtless often passed. This is the only one of the four gateways of the town still remaining. Just outside on the l. is the ancient and highly enriched late Norm. **Chapel of St. Thomas**, which has been imperfectly restored. Only a small fragment of the great hall of the castle remains. It is rather against the identification of Monmouth with the Roman *Blestium* that few or no Roman relics have ever been found: it is certain that it was afterwards a Norman walled town, of which the only gate left is the Bridge Gate just described. In 1644 Colonel Kyrle, who had originally sided with the Royalists, purchased the favour of the Parliament by betraying Monmouth to General Massey; it was yielded to him by treachery on the 20th Sept. There was sharp fighting shortly afterwards in the immediate neighbourhood. The town possesses an almshouse and **grammar school** (which has of late years produced a Senior Wrangler), founded by William Jones, a native of the neighbouring village of Newland, who amassed a fortune in London in the reign of James I. From Monmouth a light carriage will take the tourist to Huntsham Ferry, which he can cross and then ascend Symond's Yat, and afterwards visit Goodrich. The expedition can be performed in 6 or 7 hours.

In 1874 a branch of the G. W. R. was opened from Ross to Monmouth, which is much to the convenience of the ordinary traveller, though the lover of the picturesque may do better by performing the double journey by road and by river. The line starting from the G. W. R. Stat. passes on the S. of the town under the **Chase Woods**, and at

3 m. **Walford** (Welchford). **Whythall**, a 15th-centy. timber-house (J. Stratford Collins, Esq.), and **Walford Court**, once the residence of the Kyrles, but now a farmhouse. Col. Kyrle, the "stony-hearted rebel," who married a sister of Waller, the Parliamentarian General, was buried here, and his helmet is still preserved in Walford Ch., an early structure, containing monuments to the Stratfords. **Bishopswood** (W. Partridge, Esq.) is a modern mansion in the Elizabethan style, which was partially destroyed by fire in 1874. A brook, which empties itself into the Wye, here divides Gloucestershire from Herefordshire.

4 m. **Kerne Bridge Stat.** On the opposite bank of the Wye is Gooderich village. **Hazelhurst** (Miss Phillips).

The rly. now crosses the river, and runs by a tunnel under Coppet Wood Hill to

5 m. **Stow Field Stat.** On the l. **Court Field** (Col. Vaughan), and **Welsh Bicknor Ch.** Here a magnificent viaduct carries the Severn and Wye line to what is called Lydbrook Junct. and Stowfield. Near the Lydbrook Tinplate-works, where there is a magnificent viaduct carrying the Severn and Wye line over to the junction at Stowfield. Of this viaduct the measurements are as follows: the central span is 150 ft.; the two end ditto, 120 ft.; on the S. side are three arches 30 ft. each; N. side, two arches, 24 ft.; width of

pins, 30 ft. ; length, 600 ft. ; turn-pike road to the rail, 104 ft. ; width over masonry, 16 ft. 4 in. ; at the ironwork, 12 ft. to the centre of girders ; depth of girders, 12 ft. 9 in. ; total cost about 15,000*l*.

[3½ m. **Ruardean Ch.**, of early date, with a curiously sculptured tympanum on the S. door of St. George on horseback, in a fantastic costume of the 12th centy.

East-Bach Court (Rev. Edward Machen).

English Bicknor Ch., on an eminence above the Wye, contains many good monumental tablets, and two stone effigies. It has a pretty ch.-yd., and a block of almshouses erected as a memorial of Mrs. Machen of Eastbach, who died in her 97th year.

Bicknor Court (Sir J. Maclean).

Bicknor House (Miss Davies.)]

Symond's Yat Stat. 8 m., 1½ m. from E. Bicknor.

10 m. *Monmouth Stat.*

Crossing the Wye, the tourist perceives that Monmouth is situated in the centre of a wide basin, surrounded on all sides by undulating hills of great beauty.

1½ m. on rt. bank of the river, at no great distance from the point where the Trothy becomes a tributary of the Wye, on a wooded eminence is **Penallt Church**, and behind it, in the middle of a common, stands a large oak-tree, having a stone seat at its foot.

"When a corpse is brought by, on its way to the place of interment, it is deposited on this stone, and the company sing a psalm over the body. Psalmody over the corpse signifies the conquest of the deceased friend over hell, sin, and death. Here is an evident continuation of the oak and stones of Druidic and Celtic customs altered into a Christian form."—*Roscoe*.

Near Penallt is **Troy House**, a seat of the Duke of Beaufort, deriving its name from the little river which flows through the grounds (Rte. 5).

24½ m., at **Redbrook**, are extensive tinplate works, supplied with fuel from the coal-mines in the Forest of Dean, which extends for many miles on the l. bank of the Wye. Barges crowd the quays, and the loading and unloading of the staple of Redbrook varies here the solitude of the river. The hill on the l. is **Highbury**, the site of an ancient British encampment. A brook runs through the village, separating the counties of Monmouth and Gloucester.

[At **Newland** the visitor will find a large church, which has been recently restored, with a fine tower of the Somersetshire type. In the ch.-yard is an altar-tomb with the effigies of Jenkin Wryall, Forest Ranger, 1457 A.D. In Newland is a hollow oak measuring 40 ft. in circumference, though now only 20 ft. in height, one of the largest in the kingdom.

Coleford is about 3 m. from Redbrook. — *Handbook for Gloucestershire.*]

4½ m. a pretty Gothic cottage, called **Florence**, stands close to the roadside on the l., shrouded in laurels and other evergreens.

Catching a view of *Whitebrook* on the opposite bank, the road continues along the l. bank of the Wye, until at 5½ m. it is carried across to the rt. bank by a handsome iron bridge, spanning the Wye with a single arch, to which point the tide flows in high springs : a little below this on l. is **Bigswear House**, a seat of the Rookes, descended from the admiral who captured Gibraltar. Here are preserved some curious ancient tapestries. The hills behind it are crowned with the village church

and ruined castle of **St. Briavel's**,* named (but erroneously) from St. Bride's well on the outskirts, beneath a Gothic arch. The **Ch.**, partly of Norm. architecture, very ancient, was restored in 1861, and much spoilt thereby — the monument to the Warren family being completely destroyed. The mouldings of the transept aisles are terminated by snakes' heads, similar to those at Glastonbury. The clerestory windows and the mouldings of the arches on the S. side of the nave are similar to those of Malmesbury. The modern tower commands a fine view. The great gateway of the castle, which, according to Giraldus Cambrensis, was built by Milo Fitzwalter, Earl of Hereford, in the reign of Henry I., is defended by two round towers, formerly used as a prison for debtors. One of the rooms contains a box for a turnspit and an old chimney-piece, with the Royal arms on the back of the grate in ancient work. The castle was once occupied by the Lord Warden of the Forest of Dean, and the Constables of St. Briavel from the reign of King John to that of George III. seem to have been noblemen of high rank. The principal features of interest in it are the beautiful *decorated* chimney shaft, surmounted by a horn, the badge of the Constable of the Forest, and an E. Eng. fireplace, still very perfect.

[$2\frac{1}{2}$ m. on rt., is **Trelech**, so called from a group of monolith stones, locally associated with Harold, near the village, though not improbably of a much greater antiquity. If the derivation is *tri llech*, there were probably never more than three stones here. To the S.W. of the ch. is a tumulus, said to have been the site of a castle of the Clares. The **Church** is E. Dec., and in the ch.-yd. are

some curious gravestones with floriated crosses; also a **sundial**, on which are engraved the three curiosities of Trelech, viz. the stones, the tumulus, and a well.]

$7\frac{1}{2}$ m. Near a bend in the river, where quays and boats give fresh evidence of active trade, is situated the pretty little village of **Llandogo**, its cottages rising one above another, interspersed with gardens and orchards, and backed by woods. A new E. E. ch. was built in 1861, in place of the primitive structure dedicated to St. James, in a dell at the foot of a mountain glen. At **Coed Ithel** are some walls of Cyclopean character and a smelting furnace, of possibly Roman date, in excellent preservation. On the hill-side to the l. is the small fall of **Cleddau Shoots**, which, however, is only worth visiting in rainy weather.

10 m., on l. bank, is **Brockweir**, a very little wharf, at which a good deal of business used to be carried on, but the rly. extension has considerably damaged the traffic by barges, and the ship-building trade is entirely at an end. The tide rises 19 ft. Here is a colony of Moravians planted, in 1832, by Lewis West, their minister. To the S. of Brockweir, by a winding mountain-path may be reached "**Offa's Chair**," a token and trace of the famous Clawdd Offa, or **Offa's Dyke**, which commenced at Tidenham, in Gloucestershire.

$10\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Tintern Parva**. Its church, defaced by modern alterations, and paved with stones cut out of the monumental flagstones of monks and abbots from the abbey, contains some fragments of Norm. work. The ancient porch still remains. A little above it, at the road-side, stand the scanty remains of the Abbey Hospital and the *man-sion* of the Abbot of Tintern, con-

* See Nicholls' 'Forest of Dean' for the most complete account of that district and of St. Briavel's Castle

taining the foundations of a spacious chamber and a portion of an E. Dec. window. It is said to have been sacked by the soldiers of the Parliament.

11 m. Somewhat encroached upon by the high road, which is carried within a stone's throw of its venerable walls, stands **St Tintern Abbey**, occupying a narrow strip of level ground on the margin of the river, encircled by hills which form a thickly-wooded amphitheatre around it; and although the solitude is broken and the seclusion somewhat destroyed by the neighbouring tin and iron works, the beauty of the situation and the elegance of the building triumph over this, and Tintern remains the most romantic Cistercian ruin in Britain. In distant views, the four arms of the cross of the church, each terminating in a pointed gable, seen in perspective, have a peculiarly good effect. It gains, however, upon a nearer approach, when the elegant forms of the pillars and arches, "the beauty of composition and delicacy of execution which distinguish it above most other Gothic edifices in this country, can be examined and appreciated." Its architecture exhibits a transition from the E. E. to the Dec. style, and the portions of carving still preserved, the fragments of bosses, keystones, &c., exhibit foliage of most varied fancy and elaborate execution. Although the roof is gone, and one or two pillars have fallen, the walls are entire, and the stone, well-chosen and durable, has been little injured by the weather. Even the mullions of the windows remain tolerably perfect, and the view of the distant hills and woods seen through them is very pleasing. The length of the church is 228 ft., of the transepts 150 ft., and its height 70 ft. in its central arches. The height of the E. window is 64 ft. "This window, with its one tall mullion ramifying at the top, and

leaving the large open spaces beneath to admit the distant landscape, is one chief feature of Tintern."—*Gilpin*. It is neatly kept by persons appointed by the Duke of Beaufort, to whom it belongs, and is carpeted with velvet turf, beneath which, in the S. aisle of the nave, a fragment of the original pavement, composed of glazed tiles, bearing the arms of the Bigods and the Clares, has been found. Although the abbey was founded in 1131 for monks of the Cistercian order by Walter de Clare, the existing church, commenced by and carried through by his successors, the Clares, Marshalls, and Bigods, was not completed till 1287, or 156 years later. It was suppressed at the dissolution of the monasteries, and granted by Henry VIII. to Henry Earl of Worcester, from whom it has descended to the Dukes of Beaufort.

Here is a broken cross-legged figure of a knight in chain-armour, thought to be either Richard de Clare (called Strongbow), the conqueror of Ireland in the reign of Henry II., or Roger de Bigod. There is also the tomb of an ecclesiastic, bearing carvings of a cross and several fish. An ornamented but mutilated doorway led into the cloisters, beyond which, to the N. of the nave, are remains of monastic buildings. In the centre, the refectory was provided with a pulpit, in the W. wall, from which homilies were read during meals, as at the Abbey of Shrewsbury; on one side was the kitchen, communicating with it by buttery-hatch through the wall, and on the other the dormitories. An almonry hatch communicates from the refectory with the cloister, to which there is the most direct access by way of the water-gate, for the surrounding poor and for visitors, who made use of the adjacent ferry. In 1847 the remains of an Hospitalium or smaller convent for the entertainment of strangers, were

discovered in the orchard during the progress of some excavations. It was a spacious and lofty chamber, with a vaulted stone roof, supported on stone pillars, the massive bases of which still remain.

On the opposite bank of the river a pleasant walk up **Plumber's Cliff**, and through the woods leads to the "*Devil's Pulpit*," from whence a fine view is obtained of the Wye, and not far off, a peep of the Severn. The name and the legend bespeaks a jealousy on the part of his Satanic Majesty highly complimentary to the watchfulness of the monks of Tintern. **Offa's Dyke**, designed as a partition between England and Wales, crosses the tongue of land between the two rivers, and terminates on the Severn near Tidenham. Though obliterated by cultivation, traces of it may be discovered on the common near this.

The *village* is situated in a hollow, whence descends a small stream, made useful in turning the machinery of some forges and iron-works about 1 m. to the rt. They are famed for the manufacture of horse-shoe nails and iron wire. The first mills for wire-drawing in Great Britain were established here in the reign of Elizabeth by a colony of Flemings and Germans, about 1565, before which time all the wire made in England was forged by the hand. Beyond Tintern the river develops a more distinctly tidal character and aspect.

The traveller will soon perceive that the river is again entering into the rocky limestone district. A hill on the l., on which the cliffs first show themselves, presents an appearance as though it had partially let fall its mantle of foliage to expose a bit of its bare rocky side.

The high road slopes gradually upwards from behind the abbey, carried along the shoulder of the hill and at the foot of the precipice, on a sort of terrace. A little way along it one of the best distant

views of the abbey may be enjoyed. The rugged cliffs on the l. are called **Bannagor Crag**s; those on the rt., rising gradually, attain their greatest height in the **Wyndcliff**, 35 m., the summit of which displays one of the most remarkable and beautiful views in England. From the water-side the ascent is both long and steep, and those who travel in boats had better make a distinct excursion thither from Chepstow by land, or ascend more gradually from the village of **St. Arvan**, a mile nearer Chepstow. At a distance of 2 m. from Tintern, and 3 from Chepstow, the road reaches the **Moss Cottage**, a pretty little summer-house, built by the Duke of Beaufort to accommodate visitors, who may obtain some homely refreshment here, but usually bring their provision-basket with them. The face of the hill above it, though almost precipitous, is thickly clothed with wood, among which are a great number of yews. Zigzag walks, neatly made, and eked out with frequent flights of stone steps made of rude slabs of slaty rock to overcome the steepness, wind upwards among the trunks of the trees, the broken fragments of which offer frequent and grateful seats to the weary. About two-thirds of the way up, a passage is offered by a natural fissure or grotto in the rock. The summit, surmounted by a tuft of trees, is at a height of more than 800 ft. above the Wye. Over the tops of the trees the spectator looks down upon the road, and, far below it, on the river, which at this point makes an extraordinary bend in the shape of a horseshoe or loop, washing the foot of the Wyndcliff. This very tortuous course encircles a small peninsula, occupied by the farm of **Llancaut**, whose chequered patchwork of fields and lines of paths and hedgerows are so completely displayed at his feet, as to resemble a map; indeed, the owner can scarcely need a land survey of

his estate, which lies open to everybody's view. On the rt., just where the Wye disappears, close to the towers of Chepstow, rises a long scar of white cliff, a part of the wall called the **Twelve Apostles**, stretching nearly across the middle distance behind Llancaut peninsula. And now comes the striking and peculiar feature of the view: above the tops of this range of precipices appears a wide stretch of the estuary of the Severn, with vessels and steamers upon it, villages and churches beyond it. This view extends on the rt. down to the islands of Flatholme and Steepholme at the mouth of the Bristol Channel. **Berkeley Castle** and **Thornbury Church** are to be seen to the northward, and there is a glimpse in the far background of the **Black Mountains**. The view is said to comprehend nine counties. It is difficult at first to persuade one's eye that the broad streak of water rising thus high up against the horizon is on a level, or at least only a few inches lower than the deeply-sunk, serpent-like river in the abyss below. An oblique path runs from the top of the Wyndcliff to Tintern, as does a similar path to St. Arvan's, by which the necessity of descending to the Moss Cottage is avoided. The tourist by water, after turning his back upon the Wyndcliff, skirts the peninsula of Llancaut on the l., and on the rt. the rocks and woods of Piercefield, the banks of the river closing into a gorge walled with lofty precipices. The high picturesque buttresses on the rt., with tufts of trees shooting out of the crevices between them, are the Twelve Apostles, while a 13th is named St. Peter's Thumb, and another the Lover's Leap.

14 m. **St. Arvan's**.—A road on rt. branches off to Monmouth over the high grounds of Chepstow Park

Wood. [On the opposite side of the Wye, about 1 m. l., is **Llancaut Chapel**, a building of primitive style, containing a leaden font of early date and curious workmanship. It stands on a mural peninsula, enclosed by the bold rocky eminence of the Bannagor and Tidenham crags. This secluded spot was the scene of a most sanguinary conflict in 1642, when it was occupied by a party of Royalists under the indefatigable Sir John Wintour, in order to fortify it and keep the passage of the Wye. Before their position was secured, they were attacked during the period of high water by a superior force of the enemy, and of 180 Royalists scarcely 20 escaped, among whom was Sir John Wintour himself, who fought his way through the enemy to the Tidenham rocks, and, being closely pursued by their dragons, galloped in desperation over the shelving precipice, escaped unhurt on the ground below, and got away by swimming the river. The place of this successful achievement is still pointed out as "Wintour's Leap." There may have been some confusion between this leap and its hero's escape in a boat, after Col. Massey had defeated a second attempt to fortify the passage. Sceptics aver that the precipice is too abrupt for any to leap and live. Offa's Dyke commences in this parish.]

On rt. a road leads to Usk, 11 m., over part of Wentwood Forest, passing, 2 m. on l., **Itton Court** (E. Curre, Esq.).

15 m. on l. **Piercefield** (Mrs. Clay) stands in an unrivalled situation, overlooking the Bristol Channel and the opposite Gloucestershire hills. The grounds are extensive and varied, but were laid out in the day when the beauties of nature were considered as secondary to those of landscape-gardening,

which developed themselves in grottoes and other architectural monstrosities. They were formed by Valentine Morris in 1753, but his lavish expenditure compelled him to part with the estate, and he died a ruined man in 1789. It subsequently became the property of Mr. Wells, and has changed hands again and again. Near the entrance to the park is the site of the former priory of Kyne-marke, attached to the conventual church of **Chepstow**, 16 m. (Rte. 1), whose venerable castle, overhanging the river, and apparently forming part of the precipice, is a striking closing scene to the prodigal beauties of the Wye. The distance from Ross to Chepstow by water is about 38 m.

A third route from Ross to Chepstow was opened by the continuation of the Great Western line from Monmouth to Chepstow, on Nov. 1, 1876, under the name of the "Wye Valley Rly." A short connecting line from the Monmouth Railway Hill Stat. (on the opposite side of the Wye Bridge, and close to the town) to the Troy Stat., somewhat to the l. of the Monnow bridge, conveys the traveller to the terminus at the Monmouth end; and hence the line pursues the l. bank of the river Wye at a high level past Wyesham, and opposite Chepstow, to

2½ m. **Redbrook**, a place of considerable traffic by the waterside (see p. 62 *supra*).

Passing thence by Whitebrook, on the opposite bank, it runs 3 m. onward to

Bigswear Stat., 5½ m., which is on the rt. bank of the river, the bridge of Telford spanning it for passengers to St. Briavels and the forest on the l. (see p. 63).

Passing next by Llandogo to the junction of rail and river, and also by a rockweir, the line arrives at

8 m. **Tintern Stat.**, near the village of Tintern Parva; soon after leaving which, and crossing a handsome girder bridge, it enters the so-called Tintern Tunnel, and catches, on emerging from it, the finest view of the celebrated Abbey hitherto disclosed to the tourist. From no other point is its cruciform character so remarkably displayed, and the difficulty is to satisfy the gaze before, after a rapid glance at the Bannaghor rocks ahead, the rocks of Piercefield, the Twelve Apostles and Wyndcliffe across the river, and Nightingale Valley, whose denizens must run a risk of disturbance, on the l. of the rly., the passenger is whisked into the Denhil Tunnel, 700 ft. above the sea, bored at the height of 150 ft. above the river, and through crags of the height of more than 500 ft. The Denhil Tunnel is ¾ m. long, pierced through a solid mass of carboniferous limestone; and, after quitting this, the train proceeds over the high ground at the highest parts of Tiddenham, with a splendid view of the Severn estuary, the Aust Passage and Cliff, and the underlying country of Gloucestershire to the l., and occasional glimpses of the over-Wye scenery to the rt., until in due course it reaches at

13 m. **Tiddenham Stat.** The church here is E. Eng., with Dec. portions, and has an Ang.-Norm. font, with a curiously moulded Norm. leaden basin of earlier date than 1100 A.D.

From Tiddenham Stat. the line descends by a sharp incline towards Chepstow, commanding fine views of the Severn estuary and its surroundings to the l., until a little out of Chepstow it forms a junction with the S. Wales section of the G. W. Rly., and runs into its station at Chepstow.

ROUTE 4.

FROM NEWPORT TO HEREFORD, BY
PONTYPOOL ROAD AND ABER-
GAVENNY.

(Great Western Railway.)

Leaving the High Street Station, Newport, a branch of the G. W. R. now runs by Caerleon, Pontnewydd, and Pantêg, to Pontypool Road, in an average space of $\frac{1}{2}$ hr., passing, about Caerleon, some pretty pastoral scenery, and here and there playing hide-and-seek with "trade's unfeeling train."

On rt. is **Llanfrechfa Grange** (F. Mitchell, Esq.).

5 m. at **Pontnewydd** are the tin-plate works of the Messrs. Conway; there are others at **Pontrhyd-y-run**, a little further on. Soon afterwards the line draws nearer to the mountains, which, losing their rather monotonous outline, break up into groups, between which mountain streams, with their primitive purity somewhat tarnished by the refuse of tin-works and collieries, rush down the wooded glens to join the Afon. The Monmouthshire rly. to Pontypool and Blaenafon soon afterwards parts company with the Great Western, and the traveller arrives at

8 m. the busy **PONTYPOOL ROAD** JUNCT., where much of the traffic from the Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire collieries and iron-works converges *en route* for Staffordshire, London, and the North. Trains may be seen here in progress of making up for their various

destinations, containing steam-coal for the London market, or for loading vessels at Liverpool. From hence is given off the important branch, which cuts lengthways through the coal-basin, and goes across to Quaker's Yard, Aberdare, Merthyr, the Vale of Neath, and Swansea (Rte. 10).

Here, also, passengers change for Usk, Raglan, and Monmouth (Rte. 5). Close to the station are the **Pontymoile** works, belonging to the Ebbwvale Company, and **Pantêg** tin-plate forge (Messrs. Strick), as well as steel-works, l. Pantêg is rly. stat. On l. are seen the beautiful hanging woods of **Pontypool Park** (E. Hanbury Leigh, Esq. (Rte. 6).

Little Mill, 9 m., is the point whence the Usk and Monmouth rly. diverges on the rt. On l. is a pretty wooded chain of hills, forming the lower shoulders of the Bloreng, the huge mass of which, together with the peak of the Sugar-loaf and the abrupt escarpment of the Scyrrid or Holy Mountain, form a most charming view to the N.

Underneath the hill (which is crowned by a look-out, or Folly belonging to the Pontypool Park) is the little sequestered ch. of **Llanfihangel Pontymoile**; and further on **Woodfield** (— Lawrence, Esq.). Near Little Mill, on l., close to the line, is the Monmouthshire **Reformatory School**, and further on, though not seen, is **Goytre**, the seat of Col Byrde.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Nant y deri** Stat. ("Brook of the Oaks"), 2 m. from which, on rt., the Usk is crossed by a chain suspension-bridge. On the opposite bank of the river is **Brynderwen**, the pretty seat of the Rev. W. Bruce, placed at the foot of a wooded hill crowned by the encampment of **Coed y Bunedd**, 1440 feet in circumference.

The view from the summit, and indeed from the turnpike-road from Usk to Abergavenny, is most lovely, particularly towards the W., which commands the whole range of the Brecon, the sharp cone of the Sugar-loaf, and the more massive Scyrrid, backed up by the distant outlines of the Black Mountains. On rt. is **Pantygoitre** (A. D. Berlington, Esq.), and **Llanvair Grange** (Mrs. Little), 14 m. rt. At **Penpergwym** Stat., the line crosses the Usk not far from the primitive-looking church of **Llangattock**. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. on l. is **Llanover Court** (Lady Llanover), and a little further on is the village of **Llanellen**, a sweet little spot nestling snugly under the slopes of the Brecon. From hence a picturesque and varied 2 m. brings the traveller into the heart of the Vale of Usk, at 18 m. **ABERGAVENNY**. (Rte. 12.) Passing to the back of the Lunatic Asylum, from whence the views up the Usk towards Crickhowell are very fine, the railway soon joins the Tredegar and Merthyr line of the London and North-Western system at **ABERGAVENNY JUNCT.** (Rte. 11), and enters the valley, formed on the l. by the outlying shoulders of the Sugar-loaf, 1856 ft. high, and on the rt. by the **Scyrrid Fawr**, 1498 ft. high, the great fissure. It is commonly called the Holy Mountain, and deserves mention from the curious superstitions connected with it, derived from Romish times, and not yet eradicated from the minds of the Welsh peasantry. It receives its name from a fissure caused by a landslip dividing it into two unequal parts, and produced, according to the popular legend, by the earthquake at the time of the crucifixion. Near the top once stood a small chapel, dedicated to St. Michael, and the resort in former times of large multitudes, chiefly Roman Catholics of the

lower classes, who repaired hither on Michaelmas eve on a pilgrimage to the saint. Not very many years ago it was customary with the Welsh farmers and peasantry to send from a considerable distance for sack-loads of earth out of the fissure of the Holy Mount, which they sprinkled over their stables, pigsties, and even houses, to avert evil, especially reserving portions of it to strew over the coffins and graves of themselves and their relatives. The view from the summit of the Scyrrid is magnificent, comprising a panorama of great extent—Newport, the Bristol Channel, and Somersetshire hills to the S., Hereford, the Woolhope range, Gloucester Cathedral, May Hill, the Rowley and Clent hills, and the Malverns to the E., with, on the N., the Church Stretton mountains, the Cleve hills, the Stiperstones, and, on a very clear day, the Berwyns in Merionethshire. At the foot on the Abergavenny side is **Llanddewi Ch. and Court** (W. B. Partridge, Esq.).

From Abergavenny Junct. it is a continuous incline up the valley of the Gavenny to Llanvihangel Crucorney. Opposite the junction is **Maindiff Court** (C. Bailey, Esq.). 21 m., on the l., the line passes the quaint little ch. of **Llantilio Pertholey**, with its irregular ground-plan. A curious deed is preserved here in the original desk, under three locks, containing a grant of pasturage and other liberties in the forest of Moyle, from Jasper, Duke of Bedford, as Lord of Abergavenny, to the parishes. On the opposite bank to the rly. is an old farmhouse—the White House, or *Tygwyn*, the former residence of the Floyer Family; and further on under the Sugar-loaf, is *Triley Court* (T. P. Price, Esq., M.P.).

Passing l. the steep slopes of *Bryn Erw*, the train reaches **Llanfihangel Crucorney** private stat. 21 m. On rt.

the fine timber denotes the situation of **Llanfihangel Court** (the seat of the Hon. W. P. Rodney), chiefly remarkable for its magnificent avenue of Scotch firs, which are considered the finest in the kingdom, and for which, some sixty years ago, the Government offered 10,000*l.* The house is ancient, but the gable end facing the avenue and the terrace front were added, 1559, by the then possessor, Rhys Morgan, to the older building. It passed to the Arnolds, and thence to the Harleys, in the reign of Queen Anne, and from them to the present owner. 2 m. nearer Hereford, by road, is **Campston Hill** (an ancient encampment) and **Campston House** (now a farmhouse), where Charles I. rested a night in passing through Monmouthshire.

[Llanfihangel is the nearest stat. to **3 Llanthony Abbey**, about 6 m. distant on the l.; but as no conveyance can be obtained at the village, it would be better for the non-pedestrian visitor to start from Abergavenny or even Hereford. Another route is from Talgarth, on the H.H. and Brecon line. The way lies up the valley of the brawling Honddu, and, not far from the station, passes through an avenue of fir trees planted by Jacobite residents in the neighbourhood. Some farmhouses of the name of Upper and Lower Stanton (Stane Town) seem to point to the Roman road from Abergavenny (Gobannium) to Old Castle and Magna (Kenchester). The views which greet the traveller at every step are lovely, particularly at **Cwmyoy**, 3 m., where the mountains are almost grand in their sudden curves and precipitous escarpments. The eye ranges over long reaches in the Vale of Ewias, which becomes more secluded and solitary at every step, and impresses one strongly with the fitness of the locality for a conventual establish-

ment. **Llanthony**, properly called by the Welsh "**Llanddewi Naf Honddu**," or the Church of David the Honddu, stands in the Vale of Ewias, deep and silent in the heart of the Black Mountains, in the angle of Monmouthshire, "the low parts of the hills and the valleys itself," as in the description of Giraldus, "enriched with pleasant meadows, interspersed with corn fields, and now and then enlivened with woods and coppices." The priory of Austin canons appears to be in point of style transitional from Norm. to E.E., and advancing in the W. front into fully developed E. "Except in the W. front it really comes nearest to the style of S. David's, being less advanced than that of Llandaff, but as all the principal arches are pointed, the general effect has a nearer resemblance to that of the last-mentioned cathedral — *Freeman*. The ruins show it have been cruciform, with a central and two W. towers. The 3 low stages of the latter, and the low stage of the W. front connecting them remain tolerably perfect. The ruins are now the property of G. Savage Landor, who resided near the abbey for some time. The 1 side of the nave, including fragments of the triforium, remains; but the S. side is gone, as are also both aisles; portions of the transept however are standing, and a part of the central tower and choir. The central tower must always have been very massive, and this impression enhanced now that its upper portion is destroyed, and it only reaches little below the apex of the roof and that only on the W. and N. side. S. of, and connected with the S. transept, is the Chapter house, now ruined, an oblong room with a polygonal E. end; and joining the two is an oblong choir 24 ft. by 11 ft., vaulted and groined and in good preservation. At the

S.W. corner of the quadrangle lay the Prior's house, which, with the adjoining tower of the ch., forms the inn. A fragment of the lid of a tomb of E. E. date is supposed to have covered the bones of Walter, titular Earl of Hereford, who was buried in the Chapter-house.

The whole length of the church was 212 ft., and of the transepts 96 ft. The breadth including the aisles = 50 ft.

It appears from a very creditable plate given by Wyndham, in 1780, that at that time the whole nave, except the roof, remained; and that the E. window was of Dec. date, no doubt an insertion in the place of lancet windows like those of the W. end. In 1800 the views given by Coxe were drawn, in which 2 stories of the central tower, clear of the roof, remained, and at the W. end, a triple window and 4 ranges of pointed arcades. The W. front fell in 1801-3, and much of the S. aisle and nave in 1837. The conventual building covered 7 acres enclosed within a wall. The ruins of the refectory remain, but the hospitium is a barn. There is also a curious vaulted sewer, and a vivarium or fishpond E. of the church. Leland states that this priory was originally a cell of the patron saint of Wales, in favour of which conjecture the name is the only tangible evidence. Southey, with a licence exceeding that of Laureates, affirms,

"Here was it, stranger, that the patron saint
Of Cambria pass'd his age of penitence,
A solitary man; and here he made
His hermitage, the roots his food, his drink
Of Honddu's mountain stream."

In 1100, in the reign of Henry I., William, a Norm. knight and retainer of De Lacy, who conquered the district of Ewias, retired hither to lead the life of an anchorite, and was joined, in 1103, by Ernisius, chaplain to the "good Queen Maud." Their joint ch., dedicated in 1108 to

St. John the Baptist, is probably the Norm. parochial chapel of St. David's, still standing, as does the priory, in the parish of Cwmyoy. Enriched by the De Lacys, and favoured by Henry, Maud, and the celebrated statesman and church-builder Roger Bishop of Sarum, 1107, a monastery was founded, of which Ernisius became 1st prior. Walter of Gloucester, Earl of Hereford and Constable of England, ended his days here in a monastic habit. Robert de Betun, miraculously called, became 2nd prior, and brought great store of sanctity, and some of worldly fame and pelf, to the house. In 1131 he became Bishop of Hereford. In the government of Robert de Braci, 3rd prior, the convent, being sorely beset by the insurgent Welsh, took advantage of a gift of lands from Milo Earl of Hereford, and the monks migrated to Gloucester in 1136, where they built and occupied a 2nd Llanthony near that city. The 4th prior was William of Wycombe. Clement, the 5th prior, ruled between 1150-70, and made great exertions to move the conventual establishment back to Ewias. As it is evident that the present building is not earlier than his priorate, some have concluded it to have been wholly his work, constructed with a view to bring back his flock, and enable them to dwell in safety. After his death, however, the priory seems to have fallen into neglect; and in the reign of Edward IV. a royal licence finally merged Llanthony of Ewias in her daughter of Gloucester, alleging as a reason the turbulence of the people, and, *pro pudor!* the irregular lives of John Adams the prior and his 4 canons. A particular interest attaches to this establishment on account of the contemporary histories [of Prior Betun (1131), Prior William of Wycombe (1137), and one of its monks (from 1103 to 1203). It was also described by Giraldus Cambrensis (1188). An

excellent historical account of the priory, with copious extracts from chronicles, was published by the Rev. G. Roberts, in the 'Archæologia Cambrensis,' vol. ii., and also an architectural paper by E. A. Freeman, Esq., in the 3rd series of the same, vol. i. pp. 82–109. Mr. Freeman regards the approximate date of Llanthony Priory as 1200, and sees no evidence against a rebuilding, which architectural science renders certain, at that date. He suggests that it was probably rebuilt when the relations of the two foundations became finally settled, and the Monmouthshire Llanthony a distinct, if subordinate, foundation.

Llanthony is a capital starting point for excursions amid the Black Mountains.

The road continues up the valley for $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the mountain village of **Capel y Ffin**, from whence a path across the escarpments of the Black Mountains leads to Hay (Rte. 16), about 14 m. from Llanthony. Near Capel y Ffin a monastery has been erected (1870), on a site where two valleys meet, of singular beauty, by the Rev. Mr. Lyne (Ignatius). Visitors are shown the church, and are offered refreshments by the hospitable brethren. Between the Priory and Cwmoy a path to l. goes over the hill at Dial-garreg to Partrishow (Rte. 12) and Crickhowell, 7 m.]

24 m. Pandy Stat. On l. are *Trecyn* (J. Lilburn Rosher, Esq.), approached through a fine avenue of Scotch firs, and the farmhouse of **Alt-yr-ynys**, formerly a seat of the Ceol family, ancestors of the Marquises of Exeter and Salisbury. For some miles onwards the rly. runs in close proximity to the river Monnow, and here and there some pretty views are to be had. Along its further bank runs a well-kept private road, which is still available (anonymously) to those who choose

to pay toll for using it. [The Hatterill, or Black Mountains, here sweep off to the l. towards **Old Castle** and **Longtown**, two villages, each possessing the fragments of a castle. Old Castle is remarkable for having once been the residence of Sir John Oldcastle, the martyr of the Lollards.

Longtown, or as it was called in earlier times Ewyas Lacy, Castle, was once an important link in the armed chain of fortresses erected along the frontiers of England to keep the rebellious Welsh within their limits. It was the original seat of the Lacys in the Marches of Wales; and passed by marriage through the families of De Verdon, Despenser, and Beauchamp, to the Nevilles, Earls of Abergavenny, whose property it still is. The keep is thought to have been built prior to the Conquest. Of its ruin, enough remains to disclose its original form. An outer wall, composed of mould and stones, raised at least to the height of 20 ft., enclosed about 100 yards square, in the N.W. angle of which, on a keep somewhat higher than the wall, stood a circular tower, of which the greater portion remains. The walls are very thick, being composed of hard stone dug up in laminæ, not much exceeding a common file in thickness. The area enclosed within the outer wall was equally divided by a ditch brought to the level of the ground on the outside from N. to S. The part towards the W. was also divided in the contrary direction by a strong wall, through which a communication was opened between the inner and outer courts by an arched gateway, having circular pillars of great strength projecting on each side.]

Passing rt. the little modest ch. of **Llangua**, occupying the site of an alien Priory of Black Monks, and **Monmouth Cap**, once a celebrated inn, and now, after several muta-

ions, a farmhouse, the traveller arrives at

29 m. **Pontrilas Stat.**, a little to l. of which is *Pontrilas Court*, a fine old Elizabethan mansion, which has of late years been from time to time let as an *hotel*, much frequented by anglers; at present it is kept as a boarding-house for angling parties. The Dore, Kent, and Monnow are amongst the best trout streams in the country. The scenery in the neighbourhood is of a broken and lovely character.

[An excursion can be taken on l. up the **Golden Valley**, so called from the river Dore, which runs through it. This is, however, a curious misnomer, as the Dore is, in reality, nothing more than "dwr," the old British name for water.

1½ m. **Ewias Harold**, a very picturesque village of historical interest. In the wall of the small E. E. ch., which has a massive tower of two stages, the uppermost lighted by an E. E. window of three lights, was found the heart of a lady enclosed in a casket, which must have reposed here for upwards of 500 years. It was usual, during the middle ages, to place the hearts of founders and benefactors in this kind of reliquary. Near the ch. is the site of the ancient *Castle*, of which Leland writes:—"The fame is that it was builded by Harold before he was kynge; and when he overcame the Welsch men, Harold gave this castell to his bastard. Great part yet standynge, and a chapel in it. There is a village by the castell, called Ewis Harold." In the Domesday surveys the Castle of Ewias is said to be held of King William by Alured de Merleberge. The name of Harold is held by Mr. Fowle and Mr. Robinson to point to Harold, son of Ralph, sometime Earl of Hereford, but displaced by the Conqueror. Symonds, the antiquary, who visited Ewias

Harold in 1645 with a detachment of the royal army, speaks of the castle as in the main ruinous and gone. Certainly it is so now.

2½ m. **Abbey Dore Ch.**, an interesting edifice amidst fields and woods, at the S. extremity of a fertile valley watered by the river Dore. The monastery, of which the ch. is the only relic, was founded by Robert of Ewias and son of Harold, Lord of Ewias, for monks of the Cistercian order. All the conventual buildings were destroyed, with the exception of one small gable and some ruined walls. The nave of the ch. is also gone, except one arch; but what remains is very fine. The style throughout is E.E., and of that beautiful type in which the capitals are usually found with a square abacus, and the foliage still retains a Norm. character. The existing portions of the ch. consist of the transept, choir with aisles, and 5 chapels to the E. of it. At what was once the intersection of the nave and transept, are 4 lofty arches of great span. E. of each transept are 2 arches, one leading into the choir aisle. The choir consists of 3 bays, each containing a large lancet window. The most beautiful and characteristic part of the ch. is to the E. of the choir, where is a double aisle, divided by 4 clustered columns and lighted by lancet windows. These chapels and aisles are vaulted, as were also the choir and transept, although these latter have now a flat wooden roof. There are several piscinae and ambreys worth notice, and some hinges of beautiful workmanship on the door in the N. aisle of the choir. In the N. wall is the small effigy of a supposed boy bishop (13th cent.), though it has been suggested that it perhaps indicates that here is buried the *heart* of Bishop John Breton of Hereford of that date. In two of the E. chapels are some altar-tombs of later date

than the ch., with figures of knights in chain-armour. The tower is abnormally placed in the S.E. angle of the choir, which is 84 ft. long, 32 ft. broad, and 46 in height. The communion table is a remarkable slab, 12 ft. long and 4 broad, said to have been the slab of the original high altar, and to have been rescued from a dairy to which it had been transferred. Above the altar are windows filled with painted glass of a very superior kind, and under it are some coloured paving-tiles with raised patterns. The rich screen dividing the chancel and nave exhibits the arms of England, the see of Hereford, and John, Viscount Scudamore, by whose liberality the transept was new roofed and the building repaired.

On the return to Pontrilas, a détour on the l. may be made of $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the interesting little **Ch.** of **Rowlstone**. The nave is Norm., with a curious tympanum over the doorway (temp. Henry II.), representing our Saviour seated, surrounded by an elliptical amicle, supported by angels. The chancel arch has several figures, two of which have their heads downwards, supposed to represent St. Peter crucified. The continuation of the moulding of the arch down to the jambs, both here and at the doorway, without any break, is an Irish and Welsh feature. The ch. was dedicated to St. Peter, and it is believed that this is referred to by the sculpture of several cocks. In the chancel are two extraordinary pieces of iron-work, considered by archaeologists to be intended for candelabra. These are attached to the N. and S. walls of the chancel, and are ornamented with cocks, rude fleurs-de-lis, and sockets for candles. It has been conceived that their original position was on the top of the screen. In the ch. is a Bible in Welsh, printed in 1588.

[On rt. about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. are **Kent-**

church village and **Court** (the residence of Col. Scudamore), a castellated mansion, from designs by *Nash*, replacing a quaintly irregular house, of which one tower remains, and situated in an extensive deer-park on the western slope of Garway Hill. In the interior is a portrait of John of Kent, who is much associated with this district. The Scudamores have been seated here since the 14th centy., and a Sir John Scudamore married a daughter of Owain Glyndwr, who is supposed to have been identical with the mysterious John-a-Kent or Gwent. The court is approached by a long elm avenue. The walls of the church are covered with memorials of this family.

The village of **Garway** has some interesting remains. The tower of the ch. is detached, and stands at a considerable angle to the nave, to the N. corner of which it is joined by a short passage. The chancel arch is Norm., the shafts having plain capitals. The outline of its soffit is cut so as to form a series of small projecting trefoils, affording a somewhat Saracenic look, which accords with the associations of the Knights Templars with Garway, where they established a Preceptory in the 12th centy. The old altar forms part of the chancel pavement, and there are some good early crosses in slab. The **Dovecot** is a curious and almost unique building of the 14th centy. It is entered on the S. by an arched doorway. Accommodation was provided for 500 doves. In the 14th compartment from the floor are certain crosslets and marks pertaining to the order of the Hospitallers, who succeeded the Templars in the occupation of Garway. In the compilation of John Stillingfleet, in 1433, it is enumerated as "totam terram de lange careway," or Llan Garway. It is not mentioned by Leland or Camden, but by Silas Taylor, who wrote an

account of Herefordshire during the Protectorate, and mentions that there were "stately ruins and religious houses." There was formerly a tradition that the ch. was used as a prison in Border fights, and the belfry for condemned malefactors.

1½ m. further are **Grosmont** village and castle, situated on an eminence on the rt. bank of the Monnow, in a most picturesque position at the foot of the Graig Hill. That it was originally a place of importance is evident from the traces of causeways issuing from the village, and also from a market being still kept up. The **Church**, of Transition Norm., is of unusual size, consisting of a nave, aisles, transept, and chancel, with an octagonal tower and spire. It is cruciform in plan with a central tower. The chancel has been rebuilt on the old lines of its first erection in 1261. In the nave is a gigantic recumbent effigy of a knight, left by the sculptor in an early stage of his work. The celebrated necromancer, John of Kent, is said to have been buried here. Of the **castle**, once the favourite residence of the Dukes of Lancaster, the remains are not very extensive, consisting principally of a gateway, and baronial hall lighted by 5 windows. It is surrounded by a large moat. There is also a beautiful Dec. chimney-shaft of the 14th centy., similar to the one at St. Briavel's Castle (Rte. 3). The fortress was invested by Llewelyn, but was relieved by Henry III., on whose arrival the Welshmen "saved their lives by their legges." Grosmont was one of the chain of forts along the line of the Welsh Marches, between Skenfrith and Oldeastle. 1 m. S. of Grosmont is the **Graig** hill, which, although of no very great height, is a striking object in Monmouthshire landscapes, on account of its isolation; and on the other side of it is **Skenfrith Castle**,

a fortress of a trapezium form, surrounded by a curtain wall with towers and a circular keep, which is unconnected with the curtain. The tower, about 40 ft. high and 36 ft. in diameter, stands on a low artificial mound in a low and marshy position. The walls are in good condition but the upper stages are ruined. The Castle was a place of strength before it was adopted by the Norman invaders, who converted it into the S.E. point of the celebrated Monmouthshire Trilateral, Grosmont and Whitecastle being the two others.

"Three castles fayre are in a goodly ground,
Grosmont is one, on hill it builded was;
Skenfrith the next, in valley it is found,
The soyle about for pleasure there doth
pepe.

Whit-Castle is the third, of worthie fame,
The country round doth bear Whit-Castle's
name;

A statelie seate, a lofty princelie place,
Whose beauty gives the simple soyle some
grace."—*Churchyard*.

Skenfrith was a position of great importance so long as the Border warfare lasted, but after the settlement of the country by Edward I. seems to have fallen rapidly into ruin. It belongs to the Duchy of Lancaster. From hence to Monmouth (Rte. 3) it is 7 m., passing on l. **Hilstone House** (Mrs. Hamilton).]

Directly after leaving Pontrilas on rt. is a charcoal factory, where also pyroligneous acid is extracted. On l. is **Kender Church**, recently restored, which has a good wood roof, on the summit of a small elevation.

1 m. distant is **Wormbridge Ch.**, which contains monuments to the Clive family.

32 m. **St. Devereux Stat.** On an eminence on rt. are the scanty remains of **Kilpeck Castle** (of which all that remains is a part of the wall which enclosed the keep, and a part of the old moat) and **Church**, the

latter one of the purest and most interesting specimens of Norm. architecture that is to be found in Great Britain. Mr. Freeman notes Irish influence in the peculiar interlaced patterns of the ornaments of the jambs of the S. door and W. windows. It was founded, together with a priory, now destroyed, by Hugh Fitzwilliam, and in 1134 was made over to St. Peter's Abbey at Gloucester. Its most remarkable features are the chancel, which is in the form of an apex; the corbel table all round the building, which includes upwards of 74 designs of heads, human figures, and beasts; and the doorway, which is decorated with zigzag, nailhead, and star mouldings, and has on the tympanum a representation of the Tree of Life without the figures of animals as supporters. The wall in the immediate neighbourhood is covered with elaborate ornaments. The church was most scrupulously restored in 1848 by the late *Mr. Cottingham*. 1 m. from Kilpeck on the rt. are **Mynde Park** (T. Symons, Esq.), **Bryngwyn**, and **Lyston** (J. Rankin, Esq.), and the long ranges of Saddlebow and Orcop Hills.

On l. 2 m. is **Whitfield** (Rev. Archer Clive), once the residence of Mr. Booth, the eminent conveyancer. The mansion and park have been much improved by the present owner. Here lived for many years in the pursuits of literary culture and the exercise of charity, Mrs. Archer Clive, the author of 'Paul Ferroll.' There are some very remarkable trees, both deciduous and coniferous, the taxodium, silver firs, and Salisburia especially.

35 m. **Tram Inn Stat.**, near which on l. is **Allensmore** (E. Pateshall, Esq., M.P.), and the E. Eng. ch., which contains some Norm. work, a little painted glass of the 15th centy., and some good monuments, much injured. Soon afterwards the spires

of **Hereford** rise in the distance, and the railway makes a sudden curve to the rt. by a loop line, which connects it with the Hereford and Gloucester Rly.

[For description of Hereford, see *Handbook for Herefordshire*.]

ROUTE 5.

FROM NEWPORT TO MONMOUTH, BY USK AND RAGLAN.

From Newport to **PONTYPOOL ROAD JUNCT.**, see Rte. 4. From the latter station the train proceeds as though to Abergavenny, but turns to the rt. at **Little Mill**, from whence the railway runs to Usk immediately across the Usk Silurian valley of elevation, which like that of Woolhope in Herefordshire (Rte. 3) protrudes in a pear-shaped dome through the Old Red Sandstone. Passing rt. **Cefn Ila** (E. Lister, Esq.) and l. **Beechhill** (G. Relph, Esq.), situated most charmingly on a wooded hill overlooking the river, the tourist reaches

4 m. **Usk**, a pleasant, sleepy little town, exquisitely placed on the l. bank of the river of the same name. Usk is a well-known locality for anglers, the number of salmon that are caught here, in favourable states of the water, being very large. Overhanging the town, above the Abergavenny road, are the ivy-clad ruins and round tower of the **Castle**, which adds very much to the beauty of the villa of F. Macdonnell,

Esq., which stands below it. It formerly belonged to the Clares, and subsequently to Edward IV., Richard III. (who are said, but erroneously, to have been born here, though it was a favourite resort of Richard, Duke of York, their sire), Henry VII., and William Earl of Pembroke, from whose female descendant's son by her husband Thos., Viscount Windsor, it passed by purchase to the Duke of Beaufort. It sustained numerous devastations at the hands of Owain Glyndwr. The ruins consist of a shell, enclosing a court, and some outworks to the W., formed by two walls strengthened at their junction by a round tower. At the end of the S. wall is a grand pointed gateway grooved for a portcullis; and an extant chamber of the castle shows an arched window, and a fireplace with a more recent chimney. The **Church** is a large embattled structure, formerly attached to a priory of Benedictine nuns, and contains, affixed to a screen, a brass plate with an inscription, on the reading of which antiquaries are divided.* Usk was doubtless a place of some antiquity, and is supposed to have been the Burrium of the Romans; there are besides an unusual number of camps and ancient fortifications in the vicinity—the chief of which are **Craig-y-gaercyd**, about 2 m. to the N.W., close to Llanayo; **Court-y-gaer**, near Wolves Newton; **Gaer-fawr**, between Usk and Chepstow (Rte. 1); **Campwood**, 2½ m. on the Raglan road, and **Coed-y-Bunedd** upon the hill above Clytha. Near the gaol also have been found Roman querns and remains of pottery. [About ½ m. from the town, on the Caerleon road, is **Llanbaddock** ch. 3 m. rt. is **Llangibby Castle** (William Addams Williams, Esq.), said to have been built by Inigo

Jones, and the ancient seat of the Williams family. On an overgrown hill at the back of the house are the scanty remains of the old **Castle**, of which the outer walls can be traced. It was formerly called Traygrug, and was possessed by the Earls of Gloucester, of the line of Clare. **Tredonnock** church (4½ m.) contains a Roman inscription to a soldier of the 2nd Augustan legion. On the opposite hill is **Bertholey**, a seat of the Batemans.] Over the Usk is a picturesque stone bridge of five arches, from which there is a delightful prospect of the hills towards Abergavenny. The Usk and Olwey are famous for the good fishing they afford.

From Usk the railway continues its course up the valley of the Olwey, through a pleasant undulating country, to **Llandenny** Stat., 7 m., and passes l. **Cefntilla**, the estate and residence of Lord Raglan. This house was the headquarters of Fairfax during the siege of Raglan Castle.

9½ m. is **Raglan** Stat., at which the visitor to **§ Raglan Castle** must quit the train. In the centre of the village is the **Church**, an uninteresting building of debased Perp. Inside are the monuments of the Somerset family, comprising those of William, 3rd Earl of Worcester, 1589; Edward, 4th Earl, 1628; and Edward, 2nd Marquis of Worcester, author of 'The Century of Inventions,' 1667.

About ½ m. from the village are the ruins of the **Castle**, standing upon rising ground, yet well-nigh hidden within a grove of venerable trees. The entrance gateway is placed between two angular towers, remarkable for their bold triple machicolations, resembling those of an Italian castle. The present Raglan was not begun before the reign of Henry V.: it therefore exhibits one of the latest forms of the feudal castle passing

* For copy and probable translation, see Haines, 'Mon. Brasses,' p. 243.

into the modern style of fortification. Its grey towers, planted with the angles pointed outwards, are an approximation to the bastions of modern fortresses. On the l. of the entrance rises the hexagonal keep, a noble and lofty pile of masonry, called the "Yellow Tower of Gwent." It stands outside the main castle on the south side, and is considered to be older than the rest of the building. Each of its six sides measures 32 ft., the walls of red sandstone being 10 ft. thick and five stories high. It stands within an outer circuit of low curtains and bastions within a broad moat. One side of it was blown up by order of Cromwell, but the staircase remains, and from the top a good view can be gained of the surrounding country, including on the E. the Kymin Hill above Monmouth, and on the W. the Bloreng, Scyrrid, and Sugar Loaf beyond Abergavenny. It was within the moat that the ingenious author of 'The Century of Inventions,' Lord Herbert, erected some curious waterworks, which on one occasion, at the beginning of the Long Parliament, were made to play upon certain troublesome Puritans who had entered the castle to search for arms—my lord being a papist—"by which, when the several engines and wheels were set going, much quantity of water, through the hollow conveyances of aqueducts, was to be let down from the top of the high tower." It is not improbable that this was "the stupendous water-commanding engine" which formed the last article in the 'Century of Inventions,' and which contained, in fact, the germ of the steam-engine. After the Restoration such an engine was erected by the Marquis at Vauxhall, where it was seen by Cosmo de Medici in 1669.

In 1663 the marquis obtained a patent for 99 years for this engine; but if the Raglan engine, erected "at the beginning of the Long Par-

liament," was really the same, this gives a much earlier date to the invention.—See 'Apophthegms of the Marquis of Worcester.'

The drawbridge which connected this tower with the rest of the castle has been destroyed and replaced by a bridge of planks. This keep-tower is supposed to have been added by the first marquis in the reign of James I. or Charles I. The rest of the edifice was probably built by Sir William ap Thomas and his son, the friend and favourite of Edward IV., created by him Earl of Pembroke, the first of that title of the name of Herbert, from whose family it passed to the Beauforts by the marriage of Sir Charles Somerset, their ancestor, with Elizabeth, granddaughter of the Earl of Pembroke.

The entrance-gateway, before described, leads into the first court, now carpeted with greensward and surrounded by ivy-mantled walls and towers. At the further end, opposite the gate, was the kitchen, occupying the lower story of a pentagonal tower, and provided with a wide fireplace. Below it is a sort of cellar, called the Wet Larder. On the rt. is the breach made by the batteries of Sir Thomas Fairfax, from one of which 4, and from another 2 mortars, carrying grenades, opened upon the walls at a distance of 60 yds. The memorable siege of 1646 by the forces of the Parliament deserves a more detailed notice. It was provoked, no doubt, by the determined "malignancy" of the loyal old marquis, who had twice given an asylum here to Charles I. after Naseby, in 1645, had entertained Prince Charles subsequently, and was a thorn in the sides of the Parliamentarians in Monmouthshire. It was commenced in the spring of that year by Sir Trevor Williams and Col. Morgan, but 2 months later was taken in hand more warmly and skilfully by Fairfax, who, having

finished his work over the kingdom except this castle," marched from Bath in August with all the material necessary for "reducing the garrison to the obedience of the Parliament." The veteran Marquis of Worcester, then in his 84th year, had already made enormous sacrifices of men and money in the cause of his unfortunate master, and had equipped and maintained at his own charge an army of 1500 foot and 500 horse, though to little profit, since they were routed without striking a blow before Gloucester. He now, with his daughter-in-law the Countess of Glamorgan, his 6th son, Lord Charles, his chaplain Dr. Bailey, and a few rusty friends, underwent all the privations of a siege, and with a garrison amounting at first to 800 men, boldly determined to resist to the last the attack of the enemy. For above 2 months the defence was maintained with unflinching boldness and determination. Several summonses to surrender were firmly refused. To one of these, made by Col. Morgan, and backed by what he would have had the marquis believe was "a true copy of his Majesty's warrant to several garrisons to yield upon terms," he replied,

"Truly, sir, it is not in the power of man to make me think so unworthily of his Majesty: that to one, in the opinion of the world, that hath given himself and family so great a demonstration and testimony of his and their faith and fidelity towards them, that he would not please so much as to assume his name or Raglan, I entreat you give me leave to suspend my belief. And for your second summons, it makes it too evident that it is desired that I should die under a hedge, like a beggar, having no home left to put my head into, nor means left to find me bread. Wherefore, to give you answer, I make choice (if it so please God) rather to die nobly than to live with infamy."

At length the near approach of the covered ways of the enemy's engi-

neers, now acting under the vigorous orders of Fairfax, the effects of the cannonade, the diminution of the garrison from 800 to about 400, and the dearth of powder and provisions, compelled the marquis to listen to terms. The parliamentary general granted favourable conditions, and on the 19th of August the garrison marched out with flying colours, after a siege of 10 weeks. The Parliament, however, refused to ratify the articles granted by Fairfax. The aged marquis, already on the verge of the grave, was despatched to London and committed to the custody of Black Rod. He survived his misfortunes less than half a year; and Raglan, shattered by the siege and further demolished by its captors, has never again been made habitable; though after the Restoration the estates, shorn of their beauty, and diminished in value, were recovered by the family. The chief cause of its destruction, however, was the depredations of the peasantry, who for years resorted to the castle as to a quarry, and built out of it their houses, barns, and pigsties, until when the Duke of Beaufort interfered to preserve what remained of it, 23 staircases had thus been demolished or removed.

The ruins are now under the custodianship of Raglan Somerset, Esq., the warder, who is most zealous, not only in keeping it in order, but in ferreting out and restoring interesting little details of architecture.

On the l. hand, or W. side of the first court, stands the great hall, in the Tudor style, still distinguished by its large Oriel window, but within, reduced to bare walls, with remains of a large fireplace on one side and the arms and motto of the first marquis and last occupier of this castle ("Mutare vel timere sperno"), now nearly effaced. The buttery-hatches, by which provision-dishes were conveyed to the banqueting-board, still

remain in the end wall. Side by side with the hall is the chapel, almost entirely stripped, except two caryatid figures, perhaps part of a chimney-piece. These two apartments divided the 1st court from the 2nd or Fountain Court, so called from a fountain, adorned with a statue of a white horse, of which no traces remain. On one side of it is the grand staircase and entrance (in the style of James I. or Charles I.) which led to the state apartments. Those in the N.E. angle of the court, still marked by "King Charles's window," were occupied by the unfortunate Charles I. during his two visits here, when a wanderer after Naseby in June and Sept. 1645. On his 2nd visit he received the news of the base surrender of Bristol by his nephew Rupert, the final blow to the royal cause. The long series of services of the house of Somerset to the cause and person of Charles were but ill-requited by his son. The old marquis had expended nearly 60,000*l.* in equipping armies for the king to an extent which scarce any other nobleman in the country could have accomplished; he had seen his castle demolished by his enemies, his estates and revenues, to the amount of 20,000*l.* a year, confiscated, and he died a prisoner. His son, and successor in the marquise, Edward Somerset, the author of the 'Century of Inventions,' and the first person who had a vision of the great discovery of the steam-engine, was born at Raglan, and after many years spent in the service of Charles I. accompanied his successor in his exile, and, by undertaking for him a dangerous mission to England, incurred a long imprisonment in the tower. At the Restoration, he received back his estates in an impoverished condition, but was compelled to surrender an extraordinary patent for a dukedom granted to him "in prejudice of the peers," and never could

obtain the smallest indemnification for the sums which he and his father had expended in the cause of the Stuarts. Under a considerable portion of the buildings, on the W. side of the Fountain Court, run subterranean chambers, which romantic tourists regard as dungeons, but they are nothing more than cellars, sewers, or sinks. A gate-tower leads out of this second court upon the terrace, pointed out as Charles I.'s Walk, and commanding a pretty prospect. Here were pleasure-grounds and fish-ponds; and it is not improbable that a considerable lake, formed by damming up the rivulets, contributed to the strength of the castle on this side. The ancient deer-parks are now enclosed.

Raglan Castle is a famous locality for picnic parties, many of which come from a very long distance; it is also the head-quarters of the Raglan Archers (who meet here 3 times a year, and have a very comfortable permanent tent), as well as a favourite rendezvous of archaeologists.

13 m. **Dingestow Stat.** On rt., $\frac{3}{4}$ m., is **Dingestow Church**, close to which are slight traces of the castle, a former residence of the Earl of Pembroke in the 15th centy. **Dingestow Court** (S. R. Bosanquet, Esq.) is an old mansion of the date of 1623, enlarged and refronted in stone in Elizabethan style about 1846. It was once the residence of the Jones family and afterwards of the Duberlys.

About 1 m. to the back is **Treowain**, once the chief seat of the Herberts of Llanarth, dating from about the 14th centy.; but the present house was built (it is said by Inigo Jones) early in the 17th centy. The front has been lowered a story, and a continuous roof substituted for the gables. It has a beautiful porch, over the entrance of which is a

shield of the Herbert family, with 9 quarterings. In Henry VI.'s reign it was held by the King, and called the Manor of Wonewastow. It then belonged to a family named Le Gallys, or Wallis, from whom it came into that of Huntley by marriage, and has since descended to the Herberts.

The porch seems to be an afterthought. The windows are square-headed and divided by mullions and transoms. Above the doorway is a compartment decorated with caryatid figures and Ionic columns, in the centre of which are the quarterings of Jones of Treowen, Corbet, Milo Fitzwalter, Bernard Newmarch, Ap Adam of Beverstone, Ynywr y Gwent, Huntley, Hastings, and Walis. In the interior is a carved and panelled oak screen, and a good staircase of solid oak.

On l. 14½ m. is **Wonastow Church and Court**, the latter, an old manor-house of the 16th centy., garrisoned for the King in the Civil Wars, but surrendered by treachery (— Pritchard, Esq.).

15 m. **Mitchel Troy**. The Church, which is on the rt., is Dec., and with the old yews, has a picturesque appearance. The churchyard, which is entered by a lich-gate, contains a slender cross of great antiquity, carved with mystic characters. In the wall of the S.W. angle of the tower is an inscription supposed to refer to the founders, and in the interior a handsome Communion-table, brought from Italy.

Crossing the little river Trothy, on rt. is **Troy House**, the seat of the Duke of Beaufort, a respectable mansion with a huge roof, and an interior remarkable for its spacious apartments, costly paintings, and antiquarian curiosities, placed under the shelter of a hill, and by the side of the Trothy, from whence it derives its name. It is

[S. Wales.]

said to have been built by Inigo Jones, and contains some family portraits of the Herberts, Somersets, &c., including Lord Herbert of Cherbury when a boy, and the Marquis of Worcester, the defender of Raglan; also two old oak chimney-pieces, one curiously carved with scriptural subjects, and of the earlier half of the 17th cent. A cradle, said to be that in which Henry V. of Monmouth was rocked, and a suit of armour worn by him at Agincourt, were at one time shown; but they seem to be of a more recent date. There is a good specimen of Elizabethan ceiling and cornice in one room, and a panelling of the time of James I. in the adjoining one. A letter is extant written by Charles I. to the contemporary owner of Troy, in which he likens that residence to its namesake on the Simois, making mention of its diverse attractions, especially its fruit-gardens.

On a hill overlooking the rly. on l. is **Gibraltar** (A. Rolls, Esq.).

16 m. **Monmouth Stat.** (Rte. 3), 1 m. from the town. The line is now extended to Ross, and, according to the original intention, to Coleford and the Forest of Dean.

ROUTE 6.

FROM NEWPORT TO BRYNMAWR, BY
PONTYPOOL AND BLAENAFON.

For the rly. between **Pontypool** and **Pontrhydyrun Stat.**, by the Monmouthshire line, see Rte. 4.

Soon after passing the latter stat., the Great Western line to Abergavenny and Hereford is given off to Pontypool Road, the Blaenafon rly. keeping to the l. up the valley to the busy iron town of

‡ **Pontypool**, $8\frac{1}{2}$ m., which in point of situation yields to none in Wales. Few towns have so improved in appearance of late years, a fact probably owing to the long personal residence of the late Lord-Lieut. of the county, C. Hanbury Leigh, Esq., at Pontypool Park, who, with a noble munificence, presented the inhabitants with a very handsome *Town-hall*, of Italian architecture. The streets and shops have in consequence much improved, though the former still retain a good deal of the characteristic iron-work dirt about them. Iron and tin-works employ a large population, and Pontypool has the credit of being one of the very earliest seats of the iron trade, which was commenced in 1560 by an ancestor of the Lord-Lieut., one Rich. Hanbury, a goldsmith of the city of London. As coal was not then used in the smelting of iron, he employed charcoal, to obtain which many hill-sides, now bare, were despoiled of their timber. It is said that, at the time of Mr. Hanbury's undertaking, the whole of the mineral property was let for 9s. 4d. This town also attained celebrity in the reign of Charles II. for the manufacture of japan ware by Mr. Allgood, which obtained a great sale under the name of Pontypool ware. "Hardware from Birmingham and Pont-y-pool" is spoken of in the works of a modern poet; and to this old staple of the town may be referred the proverb, "As round as a Pontypool waiver." This trade, however, has long been extinct. The **Park** (T. Capel Hanbury, Esq.) is pleasantly situated on the rt. of the town, from which it is separated by the river, and the beauty of the

lawns and woods which surround it on every side proves that iron-work smoke is by no means fatal to vegetation. The house contains some family portraits. It is a charming walk, up the hill-side, skirting the park to the **Folly**, on one of the slopes of the Bloreng which commands a magnificent view, extending over the Bristol Channel into Somersetshire and Devonshire. Other beautiful excursions may be made to **Crumlin**, 5 m. (Rte. 10), or along the ridges of the Mynydd Maen to **Twm Barlwm** mountain, which overhangs Risca, and is believed to have been the site of an early British court of assize.

The visitor should also ascend the wooded hill to the rt. (crossing the Afon) to **Trevethin** ch., the mother ch. of the district, restored in 1847. It contains a baptistery for adults; and in the ch.-yd. are some rather quaint epitaphs. The view is exquisite. The walk may be extended to any length on the brow of the hill, and a descent may be made upon Abergavenny by Llanover or Llanellen villages. The distance would be about 7 or 8 m.

$9\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Pontnewynydd** Stat. On l. are iron forges, which have been at a stand for some years. It is a charming walk up the valley of Cwmddu on the l.—a deep sequestered dingle that runs far into the heart of the Llanhilleth mountain.

$10\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Abersychan** Stat. Here are the large *British* works, belonging to the Ebbw Vale Company, which employ a large number of people. Although in a naturally splendid situation, Abersychan is a dirty place, and the mountains of slag quite alter the face of the country. Still on the l., at the head of the streamlets of the Sychan and the Ffrwd, are beautiful little glens, almost shut in by the hills, and well

worthy of being explored by the lover of mountain scenery.

On the high ground above Aber-sychan are the Golynos iron-works, and the Varteg coal-works.

12½ m. **Cwmavon Stat.** The valley is very narrow here, only affording room for the river and the rly.

15 m. **Blaenafon Stat.**, the terminus of this portion of the Monmouthshire Company's lines, known as the Eastern valleys. Blaenafon has now become a very large place, dependent entirely on the iron and steel works, which are carried on on a most extensive scale. The greater part of the town and the old furnaces are on the E. bank of the Afon, but the most recent and important part of the establishment is on the W. side, where large mills and furnaces have been erected. The Blaenafon iron has always been in good reputation in the market, from its capability of bearing strain. A road of 6 m. runs over the Blorenge to Abergavenny, passing Garn-dyris, where the old mills and forges were once carried on. From hence there is one of the finest views in South Wales, looking up the Vale of Usk to Crickhowell and Llangynider. But it is a still wilder walk by the mountain road to Llan-ellen, passing at the head of **Cwm Llanellen**, so sequestered and isolated that it might be in the wilds of Scotland, instead of close to a great manufacturing district.

From Blaenafon new works, the London and North-Western Railway Company have a branch line running over the mountain by **Garn-erw**, and joining the Merthyr and Tredegar line at **BRYNMAWR JUNCT.** (Rte. 11).

ROUTE 7.

FROM NEWPORT TO NANTYGLO AND EBBWVALE, BY CRUMLIN AND ABERBEEG.

The great iron districts at the head and in the valleys of the Ebbw Fawr and Fach (Great and Little Ebbw), are placed in communication with the shipping port of Newport by the Western Valley lines of the Monmouthshire Company. They are seldom visited by tourists, who do not know what they miss; and although almost every step of the way is marked by collieries, iron-works, tin-plate forges, coke-ovens or manufactories of some kind, nothing can rob the mountains of their rugged sides, or of the beautiful foliage that dresses them, and descends with trailing branches to the very banks of the river.

Soon after quitting Newport, and getting on l. a distant peep of the docks and the Somersetshire coast near Clevedon, the line runs through **Tredegar Park**, the seat of Lord Tredegar (Rte. 1), a good view being obtained of the house, which was built by Inigo Jones. The Park Mile, as it is called, yields his lordship a handsome sum annually for tolls. The Park is beautifully wooded, and there are many charming little bits of river and woodland scenery.

3 m. **BASSALEG JUNCT.**, where the Rhymney and Brecon line (Rte. 9) is given off, placing Newport in connection with the Mid-Wales system. **Bassaleg Ch.** is a venerable old building on l. with an embattled tower. There are some ancient earthworks on the hill above, and

the site of **Rogerston Castle**, very near the line, and the tin-plate works of the same name. To the rt., within the precincts of Tredegar Park, is the old camp of **Maes-y-gaer**, worth a visit from the antiquary.

4 m. **Tydee Stat.** There are tin-plate works on the l. Passing l. **Pontymister** tin-plate works, the train reaches

6½ m. **RISCA JUNCT.**, where the Tredegar and Sirhowy Rly., a line of 15 m., through a valley rich in minerals (Rte. 8), is given off, placing Newport in connection with the London and North-Western system at Nantybwch. Close to the rly. on l. is a pretty Dec. ch. Risca is a thriving place, dependent on tin-plate and chemical works, quarries, and collieries. Risca stands on the N.E. bank of the Ebbw, near its confluence with the Sirhowy, under the S. extremity of Mynydd Maen. Soon after leaving the stat. the traveller passes on l. the **Risca Collieries**, one of them being the ill-fated pit at which the lamentable explosion took place in 1860, when 142 colliers were killed from the combined effects of fire and choke-damp. The ventilating apparatus here is very fine, but unfortunately these pits require it all, the coal being of a particularly fiery character.

There is a charming view up the Sirhowy valley on l. as the train approaches 8 m. **Cross Keys Stat.**

9 m. **Chapel Bridge Stat.** is overshadowed on l. by the Mynyddysllwyn Mt., and on rt. by **Twm Barlwm**, a mound or tumulus surrounded by a ditch, and a favourite excursion and picnic locality from Pontypool and Newport.

10½ m. **Abercarn Stat.** On rt. are the Abercarn tin-plate works and the extensive collieries of the Ebbw-

vale Company, which are of great depth and very complete in all their arrangements. In the woods to rt. is **Abercarn House**, a seat of Lady Llanover. The valley here takes a sudden curve, from which the Crumlin bridge appears as though it were hanging across like a cobweb, so delicate and fairy-like do its lines contrast with the dark hills beyond.

11½ m. **New Bridge Stat.** A road on l. leads over the hill to Pontllanfraith, Blackwood, and Hengoed.

12½ m. **¾ Crumlin Stat.** The Western Valleys line here passes under the most lofty railway bridge in England, over which the Great Western Rly. is carried to Aberdare and Swansea from Pontypool Road (Rte. 10). The village of Crumlin is rapidly increasing, owing to the large engineering works of the Messrs. Kennard, where were made Crumlin Bridge and many other large rly. bridges, particularly in Spain. On l. is **Crumlin Hall**, the modern residence of Martin Kennard, Esq.

From Crumlin, after viewing this great achievement of engineering skill from below, the tourist may join the Great Western, although he must bear in mind that there is a very steep hill to climb to the stat. There is a fair hotel for refreshments on the Western valleys.

Beautifully wild walks are to be had in all directions, and particularly up to the **Llanhilleth Mt.**, where is the solitary little ch. of Llanhilleth. It is a very fatiguing walk to the summit, but the view will well repay, particularly to the N. and W., looking towards the Breconshire Beacons.

From Crumlin the valley speedily narrows, and the rly. turns and twists with rather perilous frequency.

15 m. **ABERBEEG JUNCT.**, where the

two valleys of the Ebbw meet, and near which the Beeg, which gives the place its name, hurries into the Ebbw—a most charming bit of scenery. Ascend the glen of the *Beeg* to the mountain of *Cefn yr Arrail*, a lovely walk. There is a colliery at *Aberbeeg*, sunk for a considerable depth to the *Tillery* vein of coal.

[To *Nantyglo*, which gets its name from a stream here joining the Ebbw, the train ascends the valley of the Ebbw Fach (Little Ebbw) on rt. to 17 m. **Abertillery** Stat. Here is a populous village, dependent on the collieries and the tin-plate works. On rt., at the entrance of the *Tillery* Valley, are the ch. and schools. In the *Tillery* Valley, a sequestered and pretty place, is another population, employed in the collieries of the *Tillery* and the South Wales Colliery Companies.

20 m. **Blaina** Stat. There are large and important ironworks here, which suffered sadly in the panic of 1866, and were only resumed in 1869. The **Church**, which superseded the old one, burnt down in 1854, is a fine Norm. building, from designs by *Norton*. It contains an apsidal chancel, which is rather too dark and heavy for the interior.

Passing rt. Coldbrook Vale works, an appendage of *Blaina*, the traveller reaches

21 m. **Nantyglo** Stat. Here are the large iron-works of Messrs. J. and C. Bailey, from which immense fortunes have been made by that family. On l. is **Nantyglo House** (*Crawshay Bailey, Esq.*).]

To Ebbwvale the rly. ascends the l. valley, or that of the Ebbw Fawr. It resembles the other in all its features, except that it is less spoilt by works and habitations, and presents in some spots the most charming little glimpses of scenery. The

vale is narrower, and the river more impetuous, better wooded, and decidedly more picturesque.

18 m. **Cwm** Stat. On l. is the residence of A. Darby, Esq., manager of the Ebbw Vale works, in a beautiful situation, were it further from the smoke.

19 m. **Victoria** Stat. The *Victoria* works are a portion of the Ebbw Vale Company's works, which give employment to a large population in this valley. The works embrace every improvement of modern times, including the Bessemer steel process. A very handsome new ch. was built some years ago, and consecrated in 1869. There are also several large and commodious schools, and a good literary institute, where the geologist will find a collection of coal ferns and fossil fish and shells from the neighbourhood. The *Abercarne* Pit, which belongs to this Company, was the scene of a dreadful explosion in 1878, when upwards of 260 lives were lost.

The terminus is reached at **Ebbw Vale** Stat., 21 m. The London and North-Western Company have a short branch from here to **BEAUFORT JUNCT.**, so that the tourist, after inspecting the Western Valley and the Ebbw Vale, can either go to *Tredgar* to sleep (Rte. 8), or by train to *Abergavenny*.

ROUTE 8.

FROM NEWPORT TO NANTYBWCH,
BY TREDEGAR.

(*Sirhowy Railway.*)

By this little line Newport is placed in connection with the collieries and works of the Sirhowy Valley, and with the London and North-Western system at Nantybwh Junction.

It leaves **Newport** by the Western Valleys Stat., and uses the same line to Risca (Rte. 7), there crossing the Ebbw (which runs with the Sirhowy River into the Usk below Newport) by a long viaduct. It then passes the Risca collieries, belonging to Mr. Rhodes (Rte. 7), and turns to the l. up the valley of the Sirhowy, one of the least known and the least frequented of all these mountain glens. There are so comparatively few collieries in it, that its picturesque beauties are scarcely injured.

9 m. **Nine Mile Point Stat.** On rt. is the Mynyddysllwyn mountain, and on its summit the weather-beaten and isolated ch. of **Mynyddysllwyn**, which, notwithstanding its singular and out-of-the-way position, is the mother-ch. of a very large district—built in the days when population was scattered and consisted only of a few farmers and shepherds. Now, ironworks, forges, collieries, and railway stations are thick on the ground, and Mynyddysllwyn remains like an ancient watchtower, recalling the past.

13 m. **TREDEGAR JUNCT.**, whence passengers by the Sirhowy Rly. can travel E. or W. by the Great Western.

The upper part of the valley is more populous, and contains a great number of valuable collieries, principally supplying red-ash house-coal to Newport and for shipment to Ireland.

14½ m. **Blackwood Stat.**, a large and straggling village entirely inhabited by colliers. A little higher up, on the opposite side of the valley, is **Penmaen Ch.**, a pretty modern building, in the building of which the late Sir Thomas Phillips was chiefly instrumental. His school, established for the children of his collieries, is at **Court-y-bella**, a little higher up the valley.

16 m. **Argoed Stat.** On the mountain to the l. stands **Bedwellty Church**, the mother-church of large districts, which have risen up with their teeming populations within the last half-century. It has a square tower, low pointed arches, and short, massive columns. **Bedwellty Place**, lower down the vale, once a seat of the Morgans, and **Penllwyn House**, on the W. bank of the Sirhowy, have been long converted into farm-houses. The thickly inhabited iron-work towns of Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, and Sirhowy, but too thinly provided with church-accommodation, are all within the parish of Bedwellty, which extends for 7 or 8 m. in each direction. Documents were discovered in the cathedral of Llandaff, to the effect that one sermon a month should be allowed to be preached in the ch. of Bedwellty on the application of the inhabitants of the parish.

The valley now narrows again, the river running at a considerable depth below the rly.; on rt. is the long wooded range of **Cefn Mammoe**, separating the Sirhowy from the

Ebbw valley. From the summit magnificent views of the surrounding country can be obtained. To the N. the long, high table-land of millstone grit and limestone, with the old red sandstone mountains of the Vale of Usk beyond, Pen-carreg-calch and the Cader, the Beacons overtopping all, on the left, and the Scyrrid, Sugar-loaf, and between them the far-distant Malverns on the rt. ; to the S. the ridges in the neighbourhood of Newport and Caerphilly, the blue Channel and the faint hills of Somersetshire, form a panorama at once varied and extensive.

"In the direction of Merthyr, wave after wave of mountains rises up to the eye of the spectator, separated only by the alternations of light and shade, and the heavy masses of smoke which rise from the valleys, telling of the tens of thousands who are gaining their livelihood in the bowels of the earth. It is a grand and beautiful contrast, and to a lover of nature there is a peculiar pleasure in being, as it were, isolated from the world below, and reflecting on the vast changes that these old hills have undergone. Here is a cairn, the resting-place, perhaps, of some old British warrior; there is a steam-engine, every beat of which brings civilization nearer and widens the distance between the present and the past. It is even in man's recollection when these valleys, now so crowded with human life and industry, were untrampled, save by the shepherd, or by people who, as Archdeacon Coxe expresses it in his Travels, 'ventured into the wilds of Monmouthshire for the purpose of searching for grouse.'"

—G.P.B.

22 m. $\frac{3}{4}$ Tredegar Stat. Here are the large ironworks which formerly belonged to the Homfrays, by one of whom they were commenced in 1800, and till lately to Mr. Rowland Fothergill of Hensol, giving employment to a large and growing population. With the exception of Nantyglo, Tredegar certainly bears the palm of being the dirtiest and

most unpleasant town in all the iron districts of South Wales. The streets are intersected by tramroads, along which many little skeleton engines, dangerous alike to life and traffic, are perpetually bringing coal to the furnaces. In the market-place is a tall, ugly clock-tower, the gift of a former manager.

Higher up the valley is, 23 m., **Sirhowy Stat.**, and the *Sirhowy Works*, the property of the Ebbw Vale Co. Except for the size of the furnaces, there is nothing remarkable about them. The short piece of line beyond Nantybwh, completes the communication between Abergavenny (London and North-Western Rly.) and Cardiff, and by certain trains of the London and North-Western Rly. there are through carriages from Liverpool to Cardiff.

24 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NANTYBWCH JUNCT. with the London and North-Western, by which the traveller can proceed to Abergavenny or for Merthyr to Dowlais *Top* stat., whence omnibuses leave the station for Merthyr daily.

From Dowlais *Top* it is a walk of 5 m. to Merthyr.

ROUTE 9.

FROM NEWPORT TO BRECON, BY
BARGOED, DOWLAIS, AND TALYBONT

By the Western Valleys rly. Newport has direct communication with Merthyr, Brecon, and the Mid-Wales system. The scenery is in places of a very high character, and

the tourist who wishes to see the various features of the scenery of the South Wales coal basin cannot do better than travel by it.

The line quits Newport by the Western Valleys stat., using the same rails to

3 m. **BASSALEG JUNCT.** (Rte. 7), when the Brecon and Merthyr, Rhymney and Newport Rly. turns to the l. up a very picturesque gorge, passing $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Rhiwderin** and **Church Road Stat.** to 8 m. **Machen Stat.** Here are the tinplate works of the Messrs. Woodruffe. On rt. is the **Machen Mountain**, a fine wooded mass of hill separating this valley from that of Sirhowy. **Ruperra Castle** (Hon. F. Morgan), (Rte. 1.) is about 2 m. to the S., within the county of Glamorgan.

11 m. **Bedwas Stat.** Here the rly. turns sharp round to the rt., and ascends the Rhymney valley, leaving on l. the distant towers of **Caerphilly Castle**, which are a fine and prominent object in the landscape (Rte. 14). On the opposite side of the valley, running parallel, is the *Rhymney Rly.*, between Cardiff and the Rhymney ironworks.

Passing l. **Ystrad Ch. and Court**, the pretty seat of Mrs. Thomas, the tourist arrives at

15 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Maes-y-cymmer Stat.**, where the Great Western Rly. crosses the line by a very lofty viaduct to **Hengoed**, on the other side of the valley.

17 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Pengam Stat.** On the high ground rt. is an old farmhouse called *Plas Bedwelly*, the former residence of a collateral branch of the Morgans of Caerleon (see Rte. 8. *supra*). On l. is a handsome school erected from the funds of a charity left to the parish of Gelligaer. The scenery here is of a charming description, notwithstanding the in-

trusion of several collieries, which, however, do not interfere as much as might be expected. The quaint old bridge—the river, now rushing over its rocky bed and now forming clear deep pools—the woods feathering down to the water's edge—and the overlapping of the hills as the valley winds, present a picture, over which the artist might well be tempted to linger.

On the high ground to the l., on Mynydd Gelligaer is the white tower of **Gelligaer Church** (restored), which overlooks many a ridge of hill and many a narrow valley. As the name implies, this was the site of a Roman encampment, and there are traces of a Roman road leading to the village, besides several monumental stones on the Gelligaer mountain.

[From Pengam a branch line is given off, keeping the same side of the valley to 21 m. **Whiterose Stat.**, where is a considerable population employed in the new Tredegar steam coal pits.

24 m. **Rhymney Works.** It must be mentioned that this is not a convenient line to travel to Rhymney, as the terminus is situated at the Maerdy, nearly 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. (of the very dirtiest walking) from the town.]

The main line crosses the Rhymney river, and the Rhymney rly. at

19 m. **BARGOED JUNCT.**, whence it ascends the beautiful and sequestered valley of the Bargoed Rhymney river, teeming with mineral produce in the shape of steam coal. *Bedwelly Church* (Rte. 8) is on the hill to the rt. of Bargoed, overlooking the Rhymney and the Sirhowy valleys.

21 m. **Darran Stat.**, soon after which the rly. approaches the head of the valley, and emerges on the wild and desolate table-land of the Waun Hill at

27 m. **Vochriew Stat.** Bleak and savage as this district is, a large population has been gathered together, who are employed in the Vochriew collieries of the Dowlais Company. A residence here in the winter season must be trying, as the height is at least 1300 ft. above the sea.

Near 27 m. **Dowlais Top Stat.**, the turnpike road, the old coaching road between Abergavenny and Swansea is crossed.

[28½ m., at **PANT JUNCT.**, a short branch on l. runs to *Dowlais Stat.*

Dowlais is one of the largest steel-making establishments in Great Britain. The aspect of the works at night is a sight not to be forgotten, and the beacons are lighted up with their glow for miles round. They were brought to their present perfection by the energy and perseverance of the late Sir John Guest, who ranked as one of the foremost iron-masters in the country. Under Sir John's care the sanitary and social condition of the people, who number at this work about 20,000, was considerably raised, after having been for many years in a state of neglect and degradation horrible to contemplate. A handsome building on the rt. has been erected to his memory, to serve as a library and institution. Close to the furnaces, and almost touching them, is **Dowlais House**, the residence of G. T. Clark, Esq., the managing trustee, who is well known to archaeologists as a distinguished antiquary; and is deserving of all honour for the vigorous part he has taken in the local government of Dowlais and Merthyr. The works are now about to be removed to Cardiff—an operation which is expected to occupy about 10 years and to cost about £3,000,000. For a further account of the works and their history the

reader is referred to the Introduction.

From Dowlais a long hill of 2 m. leads to Merthyr (Rte. 15).]

At Pant a magnificent view breaks upon the tourist. Instead of the wild and dreary hill-side, marked only by grey boulders or tracts of bog, he is suddenly brought to the verge of a precipice, on which the rly. runs, overlooking the valley of the Taff. To the S. are the rugged escarpments of the Morlais limestone quarries, crowned on the summit of the hill by Castell Morlais, while the river runs in a deep gorge below, almost hidden by trees or projecting rocks.

34 m. **PONT-STICILL JUNCT.** [The traveller should go by the branch rly. which runs hence to Merthyr, for the purpose of seeing the bold scenery on the way, and the fine railway works which have placed Merthyr in direct communication with Mid and North Wales. From Pont-sticill, where a bridge of one arch crosses the lesser Taff, and where the scenery is of a charming character, the line enters a deep limestone gorge, on the opposite side of which is the solitary and picturesque little restored ch. of **Vaynor**. Close to the village is a tumulus, and there are other cairns in the parish.

1½ m. **Pontsarn Stat.**, below which is the romantic little fall of *Pontsarn*. The river, nearly concealed by large masses of rock, falls into a deep basin, which is crossed, over a chasm of 30 ft. deep, by a rustic bridge, erected over two rocks of equal height, having no more than 18 ft. between. Above it towers the lofty limestone cliff, at the top of which **Morlais Castle** is perched, appearing at a much greater height than it really is. The remains are extremely dilapidated, consisting of some portions of ruined towers, in

one of which a chamber was cleared out in 1846. It is about 90 ft. in circumference, having a groined roof, supported by a central pillar. The situation is grand and commanding, and the view to the N., up the valley of the lesser Taff to the Beacons, is very fine. It is thought by some antiquaries that Morlais was never completed: at all events it appears to have been built by the Normans as part of a system of border castles, intended to overawe the turbulent hill-people or to cut off the retreat of foraging parties from the north, in the same way as Castell Coch and others were constructed further south. Local tradition ascribes it to Ivor Bach, a celebrated chieftain in the 12th centy., but it is more likely that it was built to protect the country against his aggressions. In the reign of Edward I. the castle was the scene of a remarkable legal dispute between the Crown and the lords of the Welsh Marches. It was for long the property of the family of Lewis of the Van, who were the descendants of Ivor Bach, and eventually passed by marriage to the Windsor family, to whom it now belongs. In the lime-rock a little above Pont-sarn is a cave, or hollow, called Ogof Rhyd Sych, or Dry Ford Cavern.

The rly. now winds along the glen, having on l. the woods of Cyfarthfa (W. Crawshay, Esq.) and the iron-works to

2 m. **Cefn Stat.** Cefn, or Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer ("the ridge of the wood of the confluence," alluding to the junction here of the two streams—the Taff fechan and Taff fawr) is a dirty suburb of Merthyr, although not in the same county, the border between Brecon and Glamorgan being passed immediately beyond. A little below, the united streams rush over a shelf of rock towards Cyfarthfa. A long and

handsome viaduct now carries the rly. across the Taff into the Vale of Neath station at $\frac{3}{4}$ **Merthyr.** (Rte. 15.]

From Pont-Sticill Junct. the main line ascends the beautiful valley of the Taff Vechan to

32 m. **Dolygaer Stat.**, passing l. the little ch. of **Capel Taf Vechan**. Close to the stat. is the large artificial lake of **Pentwyn**, formed by the embankment of the Taff for the purpose of supplying Merthyr with water. But, except just at the foot of the lake, there is nothing to lead one to suppose that it is not a natural sheet of water; and the view looking up it, with the Breconshire Beacons at its head, is as fine as anything in the country. It is a great place for Merthyr excursionists, boats being allowed on the water for fishing and rowing.

The scenery gets wilder as the top of the valley is reached, the rly. passing the shoulder of the Beacons ranges by a tunnel, a little beyond which may be seen visions of the goat, now so uncommon in S. Wales.

34 m. **Torpantau Stat.**, probably one of the highest in the kingdom. Here another magnificent view opens out, of a different character, as the line descends the alpine valley of **Glyn Collwng**. On l. are some waterfalls descending from the recesses of the Beacons, and below them are a few scattered farms and the solitary little ch. of **Capel Glyn Collwng**, with a primeval yew in the churchyard, shut in on every side by lofty hills, fringed with trees up to about half their height, and divided by numberless little tributary glens and defiles. Far in the distance are the vale of Usk and the blue range of Radnor Forest. **Capel Glyn Collwng** stands upon the lesser Taff.

To ascend the **Beacons** from this

de, the tourist should leave the train at Dolygaer and follow the stream of the Taff to its very source, from whence a steep but practicable limb will land him at the summit, 910 ft. But, by getting out at Crispantau and skirting the top of the mountain to the rt., a very charming and singular walk is obtained to **Dyffryn Crownan**, a bold cul-de-sac of horseshoe shape, the precipitous walls of which are formed by mountain limestone (much quarried for the ironworks), below which the junction of the old red sandstone can be plainly seen all round. The scenery here is extremely romantic, and by pursuing the tramroad on the left to **Pen-rhiw-Calch**, and ascending the shoulder of the hill above, the tourist obtains views of both valleys at one glance, he standing as it were on a narrow wall of hills between. This is well worth the trouble of the walk, particularly as Dyffryn Crownan is known to none, save a few residents in the vale of Usk. Whilst the pedestrian is exploring the Beacons, the ancient moraines on Cwm Llwyd should not be overlooked.

The rly. now rapidly descends the valley of Glyn Collwng, at the foot of which (l.) is **Cui** (Mrs. Jones Williams), and

40½ m. **Talybont** Stat., from whence there are roads to Brecon and Crickhowell (8 m.) on either side the Usk. The one to Crickhowell is remarkably fine as it passes between Buckland, on l., and **Llanthetty**, on rt., just under the steep wooded sides of the Tor Coel.

On rt., under the mountain, is **Buckland** (J. P. Gwynne Holford, Esq., also of Cilgwyn, Co. Caer-marthen), a house whose only beauty is in its situation, which can scarcely be surpassed. The private drive for a mile along the Usk is very fine. By the roadside stands an inscribed

stone, called the Victorinus Stone, near Skethrog, in the parish of Llansaintfread. It is said to be a Roman monumental pillar. At Newton, or Skethrog, were born, in 1621, Henry Vaughan, the Silurist, and his twin brother, Thomas Vaughan, the astrologer and mysticist, who wrote under the name of Eugenius Philalethes. The latter was for some time vicar of Llansaintfread; the former practised medicine, and wrote his divine poetry at Newton, near his favourite Usk.

The rly. now crosses the Usk, passing close to **Llansaintfread Church**, a humble edifice, somewhat eclipsed by an ostentatious tomb to Col. Gwynne Holford, quite out of keeping with the church or scene. There was formerly a curious epitaph in this church, running as follows:—

“As I was so are yee,
As I am you shall be;
That I had that I gave,
That I gave that I have;
Thus I end all my cost,
That I left that I lost.”

The side of the Allt hill is now skirted, and a distant view of the Lake of Llangorse (Rte. 12) obtained, as the rly. joins the Hereford, Hay, and Brecon line, together with the Mid-Wales Rly., at 43½ m. **TAL-Y-LLYN JUNCT.** (Rte. 16).

47 m. **Brecon** (Rte. 12).

The turnpike road from Merthyr to Brecon (16 m.), although seldom travelled now, is well worth the trouble.

Above Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer the valley narrows for a mile or two, and on the rt. the limestone mountain of Cefn-Cil-Samus rises steeply from the road, below which, at a considerable depth, the river is seen. Near the 4th m. is a fine view up and down the valley, and the road is now wholly upon the old red sandstone, having passed the nor-

thern edge of the coal-basin. The vale now opens considerably, and is tolerably well wooded.

4 m., at **Capel Nant-ddu**, where the Taff Vawr enters the vast mineral basin which stretches 100 miles from E. to W., the scenery becomes wilder and very decidedly of a mountain character. The Nant-ddu (Black Brook), and a little higher up the Crw, descend in long deep valleys, at the head of which are seen the summits of the Beacons.

9 m. 1. a road branches across the mountain to Penderyn and Hirwain.

10 m. at **Pont-ar-Daf** the road crosses the infant Taff, which rises about 1 m. higher in the glen of Corn-ddu under the Beacon. A short distance further on is the **Storey Arms Inn**, where the traveller may bait his horses, and, as far as bread and cheese go, refresh himself. From hence a gentle ascent of $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. leads to the summit of Corn-ddu, 10 minutes' walk from which is the principal Beacon, 2910 ft. above the sea, forming the highest mountain in South Wales. Corn-ddu and the **Big-van** are each formed by the meeting of 3 valleys, and their figure is therefore triangular. The lesser Taff rises on their S.E., the greater Taff on their S.W. side, while to the N. the valley of the Tarel and others are tributary to the Usk. The northern escarpment is very steep, and in some places precipitous, and the head of the valley below, with its little mountain-corn of Llyn-cwm-llwch, fabled to be unfashionable, is gloomy and grand. The view, in fine weather, is very extensive, embracing the Channel for a great distance, with most of Herefordshire and the Vale of Usk, and on the W. a large number of the Carmarthenshire hills. The formation is of Old Red sandstone;—

"And from the small angle of d. the continuation of the beds forms the summits of the Vans is only a few feet beneath the carboniferous limestone near Merthyr. Great denudations have evidently been effected, and, standing on the Vans and looking northward, the imagination readily fills up the sea to the needful level, the main line of coast ranging with its bays and promontories E. and W. beneath, islands with steep cliffs occurring in the direction of the Black Forest and of the Cader and other mountains near Abergavenny."—*La Roche*.

From the Storey Arms the road descends the valley of the Tarel and, passing on rt. **Ffrwd-gwrech** the charming seat of the late Col. Pearce, in which grounds is a pretty waterfall, enters **Brecon** (Rte. 12).

ROUTE 10.

FROM PONTYPOOL ROAD TO SWANSEA, BY QUAKERS' YARD, ABERDARE, AND NEATH.

(Great Western Railway.)

FROM PONTYPOOL ROAD JUST the line takes a westerly direction, passing Pontymoule Forge and the Park to 1 m. **Pontypool Town Stat.** It then passes under the Monmouthshire Rly. and enters the beautiful dells of **Cwm Glyn**, the wooded hills on each side of which rise very

deeply to a considerable height. m. from Pontypool, on l., are the mains of the **Crumlin Pools**, once large and picturesque sheets of water, but now considerably shorn of their size and beauty. The one, however, is still deep, and was the scene of a terrible calamity, in 1868, by the upsetting of a boat containing a picnic party and the drowning of several young people.

At the end of the defile the rly. emerges into the valley of the Ebbw, and crosses it by the famous **Crumlin bridge**, the loftiest of the kind in Britain.

The village of **Crumlin** (Rte. 7) lies immediately under the bridge, from whence the view both up and down the valley is of the most lovely character. The visitor looks down upon the foundry, the white cottages of the workmen; the small station of the Western Valleys Railway, and the rushing stream of the Ebbw, all diminished to Liliputian size; while over down is **Crumlin Hall**, the modern residence of Mr. Kennard, whose works the construction of the viaduct was carried on. The whole of the view is shut in by deep hills, rising directly from the water's edge, and clothed with wood to the very summit.

The **bridge** itself, designed by W. Kennard, Esq., is one of the most splendid engineering works in Great Britain, and consists of 10 openings, each of 150 ft. span and 60 ft. high, the piers being a series of cast-iron pillars fastened together by diagonal braces. The length of the work is 1500 ft., or, including masonry, 1658 ft. The materials consumed were 2479 tons 19 cwt. of iron, 31,294 cubic ft. of wood, and 361 cubic ft. of masonry. It took 5 years to build, and was opened to traffic in 1857. The cost of the whole was 62,000*l.*, or 4*l.* 7*s.* per ft. A trap-door at each end, leading to a wooden subway, the visitor can

walk along the whole length and thus gain a clear idea of the immense number and size of bolts and pillars required for its construction. At various times, rumours have gone forth as to the stability of the bridge, but the trials made by the rly. company, in presence of the inspector of railways, of running numbers of heavy engines and trains of coal over it, seem to have settled the question satisfactorily. The cost of this structure was as moderate as its design was magnificent; and the engineers were Messrs. Liddell and Gordon, who also erected the Rhymney Viaduct on this line (*see below*). The best view of it is from a stile on the road to Llanhillen Hill. At the end of the bridge is

5 m. **Crumlin Stat.**

Crossing a short interval of table-land, the train arrives at 7 m. **TREDEGAR JUNCT.** with the Sirhowy Rly. to Blackwood and Tredegar (Rte. 8).

The next valley is that of the Rhymney. The rly. crosses the Newport and Brecon line just above Maesycymmer Stat. (Rte. 9), and is carried over the valley by a very lofty stone viaduct (169 ft. high) to 8½ m. **HENGOED JUNCT.** with the Rhymney Rly. (Rte. 14) to Rhymney and Cardiff.

The scenery is pretty and broken for a mile or two, but becomes bleak and barren at 11 m. **Llancaiach Stat.**, where there is a junction with the Newport, Dowlais and Brecon line. A large number of extensive faults cross this portion of the coal-field; one in particular of 100 yds., running S.E.; so that the coal, which is worked by level at Tophill colliery, is obliged to be worked by a deep pit at Llancaiach colliery only a few hundred yds. distant. At one of the old farm-houses in this parish it is said that King Charles II. passed a night.

A picturesque winding dell, with some beautiful peeps of the Taff valley on the l., brings the traveller to

13 m. **QUAKERS'-YARD JUNCT.** with the Taff Vale Rly. (Rte. 15), which line is used by the Great Western Company from here to Merthyr. Quakers' Yard derives its name from a burial-ground of that sect. Although a place of so vast commercial development, the scenery of the valley for 3 m. or more is very striking.

Another viaduct carries the rly. across the Taff, and a long tunnel is entered, piercing the mountain into the valley of the Cynon (a tributary of the Taff, rising at Penderyn, on the confines of Glamorgan, in Brecknockshire), a little before arriving at 16 m. **Mountain Ash Stat.** A very large population has grown up here within the last few years, in consequence of the great development of the steam-coal trade, which derives its supplies from the Navigation Collieries of Messrs. Nixon and those of the Powell Dyffryn Co. (Limited).

The **Navigation** pit is one of the finest in the South Wales basin. It is 18 ft. in diameter inside the walling, and divided into four compartments, two of which are for the drawing of coal, one for sending the workmen up and down, and the fourth for the drainage. Notwithstanding the great depth of 370 yds., a carriage containing $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons of coal can be wound up in one minute, and the whole colliery is estimated to supply more than 1000 tons a-day. The mineral property extends over an area of 7 m. long by 3 m. in width, covering from 4000 to 5000 acres of this 4-foot coal. The reader may therefore form a slight estimate, from this one case, of the boundless resources of the coal-field. In quality this coal is smokeless, which,

ever since 1840, has been more or less sought after for the working of steamboats. The French Government has been using it exclusively for some time past, being convinced of its great superiority over other kinds. It is also employed in this country by the Admiralty, the Peninsular and Oriental, Royal Mail Cunard, and other mail-packet companies.

Pass on l. the **Dyffryn**, the seat of the Right Hon. Lord Aberdare; and **Aberaman**, a mansion belonging to the Powell Dyffryn Coal. Co.

19 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Aberdare Stat.**, situated at the junction of the Dare with the Cynon river.

‡**Aberdare** is a flourishing iron work town, which has risen from a small village with wonderful rapidity. Forty years ago the population was only a few hundreds, whereas now it is upwards of 37,000, most of whom are dependent on the numerous collieries and ironworks. The Aberdare furnaces and mills, until the failure of the Company, belonged to Messrs. Hankey and Fothergill, the latter's seat (**Abernant House**) being close to the town; the Gadlys Works are the property of Messrs. Wayne. The whole neighbourhood is particularly celebrated for its valuable and rich seams of steam-coal, which has been recognised by her Majesty's Government as being the most useful for the navy. There are two churches, one of which, **St. Elvan's** is a handsome Dec. building, with a fine peal of bells.

The scenery of the mountains on the l. is very fine and bold, sweeping down in steep escarpments overhanging the common of Hirwain Wrgan, the scene of the great battle between Rhys ap Tewdwr and Iestyn ap Gwrgan and his Norman allies, in which the gallant old Rhys fell sword in hand. Iestyn, the traitor, met with a better fate than he de-

erved; for, fleeing like a coward before the Normans, once his friends, then his foes, he reached the religious house of Llangennys, in Gwent, and was there permitted to end his days in peace. Memorials of this conflict are still to be found in this parish, especially in the valley of Cadlan, the two largest tumuli being respectively 60 and 40 ft. in circumference and 9 ft. in height.

23 m. **HIRWAIN JUNCT.**, with a line from Merthyr.

[After leaving the Merthyr station the line crosses the Taff Vale Railway, the river, and the canal, on a lofty viaduct, from which an extensive view is gained down the vale. The hill intervening between Merthyr and Aberdare is pierced by a long tunnel, on emerging from which the train arrives at

Abernant, 3 m. The vale of the Cynon is now visible for a considerable distance. Here are the furnaces of numberless collieries; indeed the whole valley is a continuous hive of manufacturing industry. Below Abernant is (1 m.) **Aberdare**, backed up by the noble ranges of Daren y Bwlchau, Cefn Rhosgwawr, and Mynydd Bach, which separate the Cynon from the Rhondda valley (Rte. 15).

In every direction, as far as the eye can reach, tokens of mining activity present themselves—coal-pits with their gloomy-looking engine-houses—lofty chimneys, coke-ovens with their long rows of dull light—and networks of tram-roads and railways—all combine to make it a busy scene. The line is carried on the northern slope of the valley past **Llwydcoed** 4 m. to the watershed of the Cynon, a dreary and desolate moor, to

6 m. **HIRWAIN JUNCT.]**

Hirwain is a populous though

scattered village, dependent on the collieries of the Hirwain Coal Company. There are also iron-works here, originally commenced by Messrs. Mayberry and Wilkins, in 1758, which proved an unprofitable speculation, and they are standing idle.

The scenery now begins to improve. On an eminence 2 m. rt. is the parish church of **Penderyn**. The line descends the watershed of the Neath, and speedily exchanges the barren desolation of the hills for the wooded and smiling valley. On emerging from the Pen-cae-draen tunnel, the geologist will notice on the rt. **Craig-y-Dinas**, a singular protrusion of the carboniferous limestone rocks, running in a sharp point into the coal-measures and forming what is termed “a leaf.” The highly inclined strata of the sandstone-beds are well seen as the train rushes down the steep incline. **Craig-y-Dinas** is so called from its inaccessible situation on a precipitous limestone rock, washed on one hand by the Hepstè and Meltè, and on the other by the brook Sychryd. On the opposite side of the vale, on rt., is **Pont-Neath-Vaughan**, and 1 m. further the populous hamlet of Pontwalby and the Powder-Works of Messrs. Curtis, a little distance from which is the station of **Glyn-Neath**, 28 m. The inn (Lamb and Flag, poor) is about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from the station, and is the most convenient house in the neighbourhood for visiting the waterfall district; although for those who are able to rough it, the Angel at Pont-Neath-Vaughan is preferable.

For about 2 m. the tourist returns up the valley, but on the northern side, to **Pont-Neath-Vaughan** or *Fechan* (Angel Inn), a romantic little village placed in the most exquisite situation at the confluence of the united streams of the Neath and Pyrdin mountain torrent with the Melltè and Hepstè. It is under the

shadow of a narrow gorge, through which the Neath flows, crossed by a picturesque bridge of one arch, the effect enhanced by the eccentric growth of the ivy, which hangs in large curtain-like masses from the crown of the arch, and almost dips in the sparkling stream below, and also immediately under the majestic Craig-y-Llyn. From the Lamb and Flag to this village the excursion can be taken in a carriage, but the remainder must be performed on a pony or on foot, unless the tourist wishes to proceed at once to Ystrad-fellte, about 4 m. to the N. A guide can be obtained at Pont-Neath-Vaughan. The course of the rivers and brooks, for whose scenery and wealth of waterfalls the Vale of Neath has been so justly praised, is rather intricate, and it will help the traveller, briefly to indicate the geography of the district. There are four main rivers, besides some tributary streamlets—the first of which, the *Pyrddin* (pron. Purthen), rises in a large swamp on the mountains to the N.W., near Capel Colbren, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. above Pont-Neath-Vaughan unites with the **Nedd** or Neath river, which has its source about 8 m. due N. under the lofty summit of Fan Nedd. The **Melltê**, perhaps the largest of the group, is formed by two streams, the *Llia* and the *Dringarth*, rising respectively near Fan *Llia* and Fan *Dringarth*, in the same great range of mountain as the Neath, but about a mile or two to the E.; while the **Hepstê** rises considerably to the E. and unites with the **Melltê** at *Cilhepstê*. All these rivers, together with the small tributary of the **Sychrhyd**, unite to form the main stream of the Neath.

The first point is **Craig-y-Dinas**, a huge mass of limestone rock, reared, according to tradition, by the magic wand of the enchanter over the fairy palace where “mystic Uther’s mighty son” and his warriors lie asleep, awaiting the

trumpet-blast which on “the day when the red eagle and the black eagle shall go to war,” is to arouse them from their long slumber and call them to the fray. At its foot runs the **Sychrhyd**, separating the counties of Brecon and Glamorgan. The view from the rock, extending down the whole length of the vale, with Swansea Bay in the distance, is one of the most lovely in all Wales, though the view *up* the glen is still finer:—

“Round him rock
And cliff, whose grey trees mutter to the
wind,
And streams down rushing with a torrent
ire.”

There is here a curious appearance of concentric strata called the **Bwa Maen** or Bow of Stone, a fine gable of carb. limestone, jutting out of a steep wooded bank of coal measure, which has escaped the mutilation by quarrying that has befallen the head of Craig-y-Dinas, the other side of the **Sychrhyd**.

The gorge of the **Sychnant**, which here emerges after a subterranean course of $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile, and in this resembles the *Alyn* in Denbighshire, and other streams which are not fabulous, although rarely mentioned or visited, is perhaps more worthy of visit than any of the “stock” scenes in the neighbourhood. The lofty and many-tinted crags, and especially the magnificent one known as “*Ystol y Weddonas*,” or “the Witches’ Chair,” would gladden the heart of an artist. In the bed of fireclay, which is equal to any in Great Britain, on l. are numbers of fossil ferns. The velvet turf upon the summit of Craig-y-Dinas was long the scene of fairy midnight revel; but, as the guide remarked, “the preaching of the Gospel had driven the little green men away.” Few of the rising generation have ever heard of the fairies, even in the Vale of Neath, their former stronghold. Following up the course of the

Hepstè is the **Cil-hepstè Fall**, where the river dashes over a precipitous scarp of the rock about 50 ft. high ; leaving a path beneath the fall, along which the visitor may pass, and, if necessary, take shelter from the rain. Just below are the lower falls, or rather rapids, which should not be omitted to be seen, though it requires more of a scramble to reach them. Crossing some high ground, the visitor next arrives at the Melltè river, upon which, at **Clyngwyn**, there is an exceedingly beautiful fall, containing a larger body of water than even that at Cil-hepstè ; but as it is distributed over a greater distance, the effect is by no means so fine, besides which, there is no access to it from below, as precipitous rocks close up all the approaches.

The Middle Clyngwyn is just below, and is one of the best of the cataracts. The river takes a lofty double leap, then falls in one broad sheet into a deep pool, the rocks covered with trailing ivy and many-coloured mosses and lichens, forming the accessories of a scene alike enchanting to the artist or mere everyday tourist. Passing under the upper fall and climbing to the table-land above, the tourist obtains delicious views down the vale, the distant Bay of Swansea, and over the glittering waters of the Bristol Channel to the headlands of Devon and Somerset. In front is the gloomy valley of the "Devil's Glen," long appropriated by tradition as the haunt of demons—of the "Tylwyth Teg" or little good people, who though not good enough for heaven, were yet too good for its antipodes—of the "cwn wybr" (dogs of the sky), otherwise called "Cwn Annwn," whose fierce baying, mingled with the despairing shrieks of the victim, still resounds at night—of the "Cynhiraeth," whose wail of unutterable anguish fills with terror the belated wayfarer.

[*S. Wales.*]

About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. higher up the Melltè flows through a very curious cavern called **Porth-yr-Ogof** (Gate of the Cave), about 40 ft. high, 20 ft. wide, and about 600 yds. in length. From the entrance can be seen a gleaming mass of calcareous spar, assuming very much the form of a child, and hence called "**Llyn y Baban**," or Pool of the Child. The visitor can penetrate for a considerable distance with the help of lights, but it is very fatiguing and scarcely repays the attempt. In the middle of the cave the river is rejoined by a portion of its stream, which disappears near Ystradfellte church, and flows underground as far as Porth-yr-Ogof. The outlet (for stream, not tourist) of Porth-yr-Ogof is worth exploring. Running N. overland to the entrance of the cave is the old bed of the Melltè (which must have been there for ages before it found or enlarged the channel below). It is partly covered with copsewood, and part of its base has fallen in, giving access to the cave on the right and the left. The scene during a flood is of the wildest description, as the river has been frequently swollen to a height above the entrance, which has been well nigh blocked up with trees and débris brought down by the torrent.

Ystradfellte is a small village, remarkable only for the beauty of its situation among the mountains, and its being as it were the last trace of civilisation for many weary miles between it and Brecon, which is about 18 m. distant. [The road pursues the desolate valley of the Llia, and is joined about 3 m. from the village by the **Sarn Helen**, which runs from the Vale of Neath to the Gaer, near Brecon (Rte 12), in a N.E. direction, crossing the Resolven Mountain and the ridge of Cerrig-Llwyd to the l. of Ystradfellte. Near its

junction with the turnpike is a stone called **Maen-madoc**, inscribed—

"Dervaci fillus Julii ic jacti."

Another stone, which used to stand here near the road, inscribed "*Marci Caritani filii Berici*," has been removed to the Gnoll at Neath. The highest point of the pass is marked by the **Maen Llïa**, a huge upright lozenge-shaped stone, visible from a long distance on both sides. The road then descends by the side of Y Fan Frynach, and joins the Merthyr and Brecon road near **Glanrhyd.**]

From Porth-yr-Ogof, the visitor may cross the high ground on the rt. bank of the Mellte, and descend to the Neath river, and from thence to the **Pyrddin**, which presents two of the most lovely falls of the whole group.

The upper one ($2\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Pont-Neath-Vaughan) is called **Scwd Einon Gam**, or Crooked Einon's Fall, and presents an unbroken sheet of water dashing over at a height of 80 ft.

The lesser fall, or **Scwd Gladys** (the Lady's Fall), is $\frac{1}{2}$ m. nearer Pont-Neath-Vaughan, and is about 40 ft. in height, possessing, though in a less degree, very much the beautiful features of the former. The sides of this fall are studded with trees, starting promiscuously from the fissures and clefts of the rocks. Near it stood the Logan or rocking-stone (in weight 16 tons, yet movable by a finger's touch), which, by an act of wanton Vandalism which cannot be too strongly reprehended, was overturned in 1850 by a party of navvies who were employed on the railway. [If the pedestrian can afford time, he may follow the **Pyrddin** to its source, a distance of 5 m., and visit the little ch. of Chapel Colborn and the waterfall of **Scwd Hen Rhyd** on the **Llech**, which in height exceeds them all (lïte 13).]

Close to the stat. of **Glyn Neath** is **Aberpergwm**, the seat of Morgan Stuart Williams, Esq., the heir of W. Williams, Esq., a zealous cultivator of the Welsh literature and traditions. **Aberpergwm**, anciently called **Glyn-Nedd**, is commemorated by Lewis Glyn Cothi in the 15th centy., the festive board there being likened to King Arthur's, and the words spoken there being pronounced the ancient language of the Britons; and is one of the most charming and romantic spots in S. Wales. The fine growth of the timber, the undulations of the park, and the precipitous escarpments of the mountains produce a combination of effects rarely to be met with.

The road through the glen should be followed to the hill-top, or the winding footpath may be taken. By the side of the latter is a monumental stone, raised over a favourite pony, thus inscribed :—

"Optimus inter equos jacet hîc sub mole
Cortinus;
Ut tibi cursus erat, sit quoque tuta quies.
Et si cura eadem sequitur tellure repositus;
Dilectum Elysîs tu mihi cursus eris."

At **Aberpergwm** is one of the little churches, raised to supply the spiritual wants of the extensive parish of Cadoxton juxta Neath.

On a bank immediately above the stat. is the pretty cottage of **Ynis-las**, the residence of the Misses Williams, members of the same old family, well-known for the services rendered by them to Welsh literature and Welsh national music.

The Vale of Neath gradually widens in its downward course, and becomes more beautifully clothed with trees, and more graceful in the outlines of the hills on either side. The river glides along in charming reaches, though in a more peaceful stream than higher up the valley; and running very near it, the canal from Abernant to Neath offers many pretty scenes on its wooded banks. On the rt. is **Rheola** (Capt. J.

Vaughan), second only to Abergavenny in the singular beauty of its situation. Here also is a beautiful little memorial church, erected by the late Mr. Nash Vaughan in memory of his first wife. A little further on is **Resolven** Stat. 31 m., near which on a bank to the l. is another pretty church.

$\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the station stood a gigantic but hollow oak, generally known as **Wiclyffe's Oak**, under the shadow of which the great reformer is said to have preached. It lies now, a mere shell, against the wall of the adjoining farmyard.

To the l. ($\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is **Melincourt Fall**, where the Cleddau brook leaps over a rock 80 ft. high into the wooded glen below. Upon the opposite side of the valley at **Abergavenny**, not far from the "Stag" public-house, is another fine fall, worth visiting after rain.

Between Resolven and 35 m. **Aberdylais** stat. on rt. is *Ynisgygerwn* (J. P. Dilwyn Llewelyn, Esq.), the ancient seat of the Llewelyns of Penlergare, now tenanted by Hon. H. J. Bruce. The mill and cascade at **Aberdylais** were a general theme of admiration amongst the old Welsh tourists, but the mill has long since been incorporated with the tinplate works of Messrs. Williams and Co., and the cascade hidden amongst the buildings of the same establishment.

From hence to Neath the valley rapidly extends. On l. is the **Gnoll** (Charles Evan Thomas, Esq.) (Rte. 1), and on rt., 1 m. from Neath, the **Church of Cadoxton**, which contains amongst its parochial curiosities the pedigree of the family of Williams, engraved on sheets of copper, and occupying 4 long pages. Also a quaint epitaph to a Mrs. Rose Williams, in the form of an acrostic.

A little to the N.W. of Neath is **Odyfryn**, the modern mansion of the late Howel Gwyn, Esq.

Cadoxton is one of the few churches in the Principality where the custom of delivering a "Plygain" on Christmas morning is kept up. (See *Introduction*, page xxvii).

37 m. **Neath** Stat. (Rte. 7).

38 m. **Neath Abbey** Stat.

40 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Briton Ferry Road** Stat.

44 m. **Swansea** (Rte. 2).

ROUTE 11.

ABERGAVENTNY TO MERTHYR, BY BRYNMAWR AND TREDEGAR.

This route is performed by a branch of the London and North-Western Rly., which runs from Abergavenny as far as Nantybwhch, the remainder of the line not being completed.

The rly. quits the Great Western at **ABERGAVENTNY JUNCT.**, and passing the Lunatic Asylum, reaches

1 m. **Abergavenny** (Brecon Road Stat.). It then crosses the Usk on a higher level than the high road, and winds round the foot of the fine mass of the Bloreng.

2 m. looking back from **Llanfoist** (**Llanfoist House**, C. Bailey, Esq.) is a lovely view of the Scyrrid and the Sugar Loaf, with the town of Abergavenny.

3 m. **Govilon Stat.** Here are wire-works—also a pretty modern ch. **Aberbaiden** is the residence of Capt. Scott, and **Llanwenarth** of J. Humfrey, Esq.

The rly. rapidly rises to a considerable height to

4½ m. **Gilwern Stat.** From hence there is a superb view of the vale of Crickhowell, with the town in the distance, the Daren, the Cader, the Grywney Valley and the Black Mountains. At this point the tourist leaves the valley of the Usk and enters the gorge of the **Clydach**, which rises in mountains to the S.W., and, rushing torrent-wise, forms the waterfall of **Pwll y Cwyn**, at the bottom of which an aqueduct carries the Brecon and Newport Canal at a height of 80 ft. above the stream. The rly. is carried over a picturesque ravine by a lofty viaduct to

6 m. **Clydach Stat.** On l. are large limestone quarries. The rocky glen of the **Clydach**, which is not unlike parts of Matlock, is at once highly picturesque and enlivened by active industry; and in its sides are mines and quarries of iron, coal, and limestone, on which formation the rly. now emerges, before entering the coal-measures, upon which it remains for the rest of the route. At intervals are seen large iron furnaces, forges, and rolling-mills, placed at a great depth below the line. White streaks or single dots along the hill-sides indicate the houses of the colliers and forgemen, as they are grouped in rows, or planted singly. The **Clydach** forges were set going by Mr. Jayne. The limestone on both sides of the dingle (about 500 ft. in thickness) is extensively worked to supply the iron-works of Nantyglo, Blaina, and Beaufort, to which places it is conveyed by means of locomotives.

The tourist should get out at **Clydach** (which is in Brecknockshire) and descend the hill to the bed of the river to visit the **falls** of the **Clydach**, singularly picturesque, although not of very great height. The principal one, **Pwll-y-cwn**, or the Pool of Dogs, has worn some singular caldrons in the rock. Tradition avers that the body of a murdered woman was discovered there eaten by dogs. Ascend the l. bank of the river to the tramroad, and *walk* up it to **Brynmawr**. The scenery in this part of the dell is enchanting.

Quitting **Clydach Stat.** the rly. still keeps at a considerable height above the road, which is seen on rt., climbing the **Blackrock Hill**.

The line passes through two tunnels, and is carried over some bold ravines, revealing transient glimpses which would rejoice an artist. At the head of the glen (whence the view towards the N. is peculiarly grand) the trees disappear, and vegetation grows scantier as the traveller approaches

9 m. **BRYNMAWR JUNCT.**, with the **Blaenafon** line, opened in 1869 (Rte. 6). He would naturally anticipate that at this height (1200 ft. above the sea) population would greatly diminish, but the reverse is the case. This upland district of bleak and barren moor, swamp and bog, 70 years ago a sheep-walk, destitute of human habitation, is now converted into a teeming hive of human beings.

From hence to **Merthyr**, town succeeds to town, almost like a continuous street, the principal objects on which the eye rests being tramways and railways, machinery for raising coal, and "tips," the raw unsightly heaps of rubbish ejected from the coalpit mouths, interspersed with pools and tanks formed by damming up the streamlets, while at intervals of 2 or 3 m. the

groups of colossal chimneys, cones, and blackened walls and roofs, with their accompaniment of smoke and flame, announce that the visitor is approaching an ironwork. Were there no other appearances, those of the inhabitants would be sufficient. Groups of colliers with features unlistinguishable from coal-grime, and women, from the nondescript style of their garments, apparently of the picene gender, with cheeks bronzed from exposure to the weather, and bare ankles of Amazonian proportion, are met at every step.

The impulse given to the iron-trade by the construction of railroads in Great Britain and other countries was nowhere more felt than in this district. Wages rose high (as indeed they always are, when compared with those of agricultural labourers), and masters made enormous fortunes. Within the last few years, however, competition has told immensely on the S. Wales trade; the number of collieries and furnaces everywhere erected, and the discovery of new ores and new fields, particularly in S. Yorkshire, Cleveland, Northamptonshire, and Somersetshire, had considerably diminished the profits of the trade even before the late period of general depression had set in. Since then, the iron-trade in S. Wales may be said to have utterly collapsed, and in those cases where the means or the enterprise to turn to the manufacture of steel have been wanting the works seem to have been permanently closed. Until within the last 30 years, the population was left to increase with no adequate provision for its instruction, temporal or spiritual. The wealthy owners, who derived large fortunes, seemed to overlook the responsibilities and obligations that they had incurred by bringing such large masses of people together, and, as a consequence of this blameable neglect, ignorance, disorder, and

disaffection were rampant; and were it not for the endeavours of the Dissenters, religion and morality would have been almost wholly unknown. Fortunately for S. Wales, however, a healthier and better spirit has been rapidly growing amongst all classes: schools, chapels, and churches have been extensively provided, while the work-people have done much to raise themselves in the social scale, and yield to few in the same rank of life in intelligence, industry, and morality.

Brynmaur is a large ironwork town, principally composed of those employed in the Nantyglo works. A neat ch. has been erected just outside the town and close to the station, although the great bulk of the people patronise the chapels, which abound.

[1 m. l. is the town of **Nantyglo**. The road thither runs through the Nantyglo ironworks (which lie about mid-way), the property of the Bailey family, who have acquired from them much of their enormous wealth. Here is a station of the Western Valleys Railway. (Rte. 7.)

11 m. **BEAUFORT JUNCT.**, from whence a short branch of 2 m. is given off on l. to **Ebbw Vale Works**.

Beaufort Ironworks form a long straggling street of about 1 m. in length, of exceeding dirtiness, and affording nothing whatever to interest the tourist.

The rly. is now carried over the Cwm Carnol, a pretty little dingle, by a lofty viaduct, having on l. *Cefnamwr House*. A good distant view is obtained of Ebbwvale.

12 m. **Trefil Stat.**

13½ m. **NANTYBWCH JUNCT.**, with the Sirhowy Rly. (Rte. 8), by which the traveller reaches **Tredeggar**. The remainder of the route is performed

by an *omnibus*, which leaves the station daily for Merthyr.

14½ m. At **Rhymney Gate** the Rhymney river separates the counties of Brecon, Glamorgan, and Monmouth.

2 m. l. are the Rhymney Iron-works (Rte. 14).

The road now traverses the bleak and barren Waun Common, in winter one of the most severe and shelterless roads in the kingdom. Frequent piles of stones by the roadside mark the sites of little huts, erected by squatters, who were under the impression that if they could raise their dwelling in a single night they obtained a legal right to the soil. The Lord of the Manor, however, differed from them, and they were speedily ejected.

At the top of the hill the road passes under the Newport and Brecon Rly. (Rte. 9) close to **Dowlais Top Stat.**

It then descends a long hill of 2 m. through the dismal streets of Dowlais to **Merthyr**. (Rte. 15.)

ROUTE 12.

FROM MONMOUTH TO BRECON, BY
ABERGAVENNY AND CRICKHOWEL.

For route from Monmouth to Raglan, 8 m., see Rte. 5.

9½ m. **Cross Bychan**, from the high ground of which the traveller obtains a noble view of the valley of the Usk. The long ridge of the *Seyrrid Fawr* and the tall sharp cone of the *Sugar Loaf* are seen from 6 to 10 m. on the rt., while

in front and more to the l. is the huge shapeless mass of the *Bloreng*.

[A road to the rt. leads to Monmouth, through **Bryngwyn** (Archdeacon Crawley), Tregaer, and Din-gestow.]

11 m. rt. **Clytha** (W. Herbert, Esq.). The house, a handsome freestone building with an Ionic portico, is seen through the trees. It contains some good Italian pictures but it is not shown. The building on the l. on the hill, called the *Castle*, is a family mausoleum, erected in 1790; the view from it of the Vale of Usk is magnificent.

[A road to the l. leads to *Usk* 6 m. (Rte. 5), passing, 2 m. l., **Coed-y-Bunedd**, an ancient encampment on a wooded hill; **Brynderwen**, the seat of the Rev. W. Bruce; and 5 m. **Llancayo**.] Just before arriving at Clytha, the road passes through a deep cutting in the upper Silurian rocks which constitute the extreme or outer covering of the Usk valley or elevation, so well known to geologists. At the bottom of the hill the old red sandstone reappears.

11½ m. at the *Swan*, a road-side inn, the Usk first shows itself, and on the rt. [a road leads to **Llanarth Court** (John A. Herbert, Esq.), the handsome seat of an old Monmouth shire Roman Catholic family.

4 m. l., near the corner of a road to Abergavenny, through Llanvapley is **Cillwch**, an old farmhouse, formerly the seat of the Progers family

5 m. **Llantilio Crossenny Park** (Sir H. Jackson, Bart.) and **Church**, very prettily situated close to the mansion. It is a spacious building, principally Dec., with later work in the large chapel on the N. side of the presbytery. The chancel is separated from the nave by an arch of such depth and thickness as to be really

passage. In the churchyard is an altar-tomb, erected by Col. Clifford to the memory of his son. Llantilio was once the residence of a younger branch of the Powels, and on the extinction of the male line it came by marriage into the family of Lewis, and then to its late owner, Colonel Clifford.

To the N. of the park are vestiges of an old fortified house, said to have been the residence of Sir David Gam, and called *Old Court*.

On an eminence $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the N. is **White Castle**, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Skenfrith and 5 m. from Grosmont, and forming the western point of the Monmouthshire Trilateral. It appears never to have had a keep, but was a fortified area consisting of a lofty curtain wall, mural towers, and gatehouse; capable, however, of containing a large force, which was probably accommodated in timber-sheds built against the inside of the walls. It is surrounded by earth-works and ditches of remarkable strength, which have been commonly attributed to its Welsh lords, though the best modern opinion assigns them to the reign of King John, in which the Castle was probably built. Like all the Border castles, which were not the residence of some powerful noble, it fell quickly into ruins after the settlement of the country.

Still further to the north rises the **Graig Hill**, an isolated wooded eminence, and a very conspicuous feature in Monmouthshire landscape.

The road from Llantilio continues to Monmouth, $7\frac{1}{2}$ m., passing the little village of **Llanvihangel Ystern Llewern**, and 4 m. the **Hendre**, the seat of John Allan Rolls, Esq. To the S. of the house is the site of the Abbey of **Grace Dieu**, founded by John of Monmouth in 1229.

$5\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Rockfield** (General Sir John Garvoek).

$7\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Monmouth.**]

Proceeding on the high road to Abergavenny is

12 m., rt., **Llansaintfraed** (Major Herbert). The ch. is one of the most diminutive in the country.

13 m. a road on l. runs to Usk, crossing the river a little distance off. On the opposite bank is **Pant-y-goitre**, formerly the seat of the Morgans, and now of A. D. Berrington, Esq.; and the interesting Church of **Llanfair Kilgeddin**, of late 14th cent. style, well restored in 1876. The walls are enriched with some remarkable illustrations of the Canticle "All ye Works of the Lord, Bless ye the Lord," designed and executed by Mr. Heywood Sumner. The work is of great artistic merit and is also interesting as an instance of the revival of the method, known as "sgraffito," which is said to have been used in the Catacombs of Rome. The keys of the church may be obtained from the Rectory, which is opposite the side gate of Pant-y-goitre.

14 m. the King of Prussia, a well-known roadside hostelry.

14 m. l. is the primitive Church of **Llangattoc**, situated on the bank of the Usk, on the other side of which, under the shadow of the Blorenge, is **Llanover**, the seat of Lady Llanover, situated in a small but beautifully wooded park. The gardens are worth seeing. Llanover Church still retains the custom of the "plygain" on Christmas morning, which is usually attended by a large congregation.

From **Penpergwm** Stat. (on l.) the Great Western Rly. runs parallel to the turnpike-road.

16 m. rt. are the fine old woods and a glimpse of the old house of **Coldbrook**, the ancestral seat of F. Hanbury Williams, Esq., and once the residence of the famous Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, "the polished courtier and the votary of

wit and pleasure." He was British ambassador to Berlin and St. Petersburg in 1744, and was one of the chief ornaments of the Court. The house contains some carvings and family portraits.

From hence the road runs down a gentle incline into the old town of

17 m. **‡ Abergavenny** (Rte. 4). The road enters between the castle on the l. and the Priory on the rt., behind which are seen the tower and Perp. window of the old priory-church. Abergavenny (the Gobannium of Antoninus) is chiefly remarkable for the beauty of its situation in the Vale of Usk (the garden of Wales), at the junction of the small stream the Gavenny—

"The brook that christeneth Abergenny."
Drayton.

It is surrounded on every side, says Churchyard,

"by mountains broad and high,
And some thick woods to please the
gazer's eye"—

the chief mountains being the Scyrrid Fawr and Fach on the rt., the Blorenge on the l., and the Sugar Loaf, with its shoulders of the Deri and the Rholben, at the N. of the town. Though in the old parts of the town many of the streets are narrow and inconvenient, great improvements have been made of late years by the public spirit of the inhabitants. An excellent supply of water has been obtained, and an efficient system of drainage carried out. A Town Hall (having a large assembly-room) has been erected, with capacious covered market adjoining, and a large cattle-market has also been provided. The **Church** (St. Mary's) has been severely handled in former times, and altered by modern churchwardens in a lamentable manner. It was originally the chapel of a Benedictine priory, founded in the beginning of the 12th cent. There are no appreciable remains of the

original Norman chapel, and the present structure seems to belong to the early part of the 14th cent. This ch. was cruciform, with a central tower, E. of which was the monks' choir, with 24 stalls, 12 on each side, of carved 14th-centy. oak, still remaining. Choir and chancel are of great length. The transepts were extended eastward by the erection of aisles opening into the choir; and these aisles have been used as burial-places, first of the lords of Abergavenny, and then of the nobles of the district; the S. aisle having acquired the name of the Herbert, and the N. that of the Lewis chapel. The monuments in these, though greatly mutilated, and marred by ill-advised repairs, are yet of great interest, and well worth inspection. They are chiefly in the form of altar-tombs, or tombs in recesses, having recumbent effigies lying upon them; and they form a striking series of monumental effigies from the 13th to the 17th centy., displaying the various changes in the arms and armour of the knightly warriors, and exhibiting a consecutive series of illustrations, not only of armour but also of costumes, whether of knights or ladies. Few churches contain so regular a series of these. In the centre of the Herbert chapel stands the tomb of Sir William ap Thomas (ob. 1446) and his wife, Gladys (daughter of Sir David Gam, and widow of Sir Roger Vaughan), the parents of William Herbert, 1st Earl of Pembroke. The figures are of alabaster. Under the arch between the chapel and choir is the alabaster altar-tomb of Sir Richard Herbert of Coldbrook, and his wife, Margaret. He was 2nd son of Sir William ap Thomas, and was beheaded in 1469, after the Battle of Banbury, with his elder brother, the Earl of Pembroke. Between the main piers under the archway betwixt the Herbert chapel and the choir is the tomb of Laurence

de Hastings, Lord of Abergavenny (ob. 1348). In the lower part of the recess of a window is the recumbent figure of a knight in armour, sculptured in freestone, said to represent Sir William de Hastings, half-brother of the last-named (ob. 1349). In a recess of S. wall of the Herbert chapel is the alabaster monument of Sir Richard Herbert, of Ewyas, from whom are descended the earls of Pembroke and Carnarvon, and the Marquis of Bute. He died in 1510. Against the pier of the arch between the choir and N. aisle is a female figure on an altar-tomb, said to be Eva, wife of William de Braose, Lord of Abergavenny. She died in 1230. At the foot of this is another female figure, less defaced, and said to be Eva de Cantelupe, Baroness of Abergavenny in her own right. She was daughter of the last-named, and died in 1256. Both tombs are earlier than the ch. There is a well-carved figure in oak of a young knight in armour, which at present lies in the Lewis chapel, supposed to be George de Cantelupe, Lord of Abergavenny, who died 1273. There are also interesting monuments to Sir David Lewis, Judge of the High Court of Admiralty (ob. 1584), and Judge Powell (ob. 1635).

In the Herbert chapel are the remains of a Jesse tree, perhaps one of the most perfect extant; an emblematical representation of the genealogy of our Lord from David, formed by a tree growing out of the body of the sleeping Jesse. On the branch are represented, by small statues amidst the foliage, the different personages from whom he is descended. Churchyard, in the margin of his poem (1587), says, "In this church was a most famous worke in manner of a genealogy of kings, called the Roote of Jesse, which work is defaced and pulled down in pieces." It is supposed that it may originally have formed the reredos of the high altar, and

part of the screen between the choir and the Lady Chapel. It is most likely that it was pulled down at the Reformation. All that remains is the grand figure of Jesse, the stem of the tree issuing from his left side and grasped by the left hand of the figure, above which it is cut short off. It is in good preservation, and a very fine sample of bold oak carving of the 15th centy., if not earlier.

The Castle,—

"The rent Norman tower that overhangs
The lucid Usk,"—

a shattered and shapeless ruin, on a mount near the S. extremity of the town, was founded by the Norman Hammeline de Baladun soon after the Conquest, and, during the long period of struggle between the Welsh and their imperious and tyrannical masters, the Lords Marchers, was repeatedly the scene of bloody deeds and murders. Giraldus observes "that it was dishonoured by treason oftener than any other castle in Wales." In two instances it is asserted by the Welsh historian, that their chieftains were invited under pretence of friendship and the adjustment of differences within these walls, and while seated unarmed at the board were assassinated by their Norman entertainers in defiance of the laws of hospitality. The lordship passed in time from the house of Braose to Cantilupe, Hastings, Beauchamp, and Neville, with which last noble house it has remained since the reign of Henry VI., the title of the Earl of Abergavenny being derived from this castle.

The ruins are now partly occupied by a private house, and the enclosure within the walls is converted into a garden. A public terrace walk runs along the outside and commands a charming view.

The town was once famous for its manufacture of flannel, and after-

wards for that of wigs made of bleached goat's hair, but both these sources of industry have departed. As a commercial town, Abergavenny derives most of its importance from the markets, which are largely attended by customers from the hill-districts. There is excellent fishing to be obtained in the Usk under certain regulations.

The only modern public buildings in Abergavenny worth notice are the **Lunatic Asylum**, which is placed in a commanding situation overlooking the town and valley; a handsome structure in the early Pointed style, erected in 1850 at a cost of 40,000*l.*, for the reception of lunatic patients of the joint counties of Monmouth, Brecon, and Radnor, and since then much enlarged; and the **Town Hall**, of grey stone and Gothic style, with shops and a spacious market on the ground floor.

There are also neat almshouses and a church erected by Miss Rachel Herbert in 1839.

A bridge of 7 arches carries the Merthyr road across the river, and close beside it, but on a higher level, the railway bridge of the Merthyr and Tredegar line is taken, producing a curious but not unpicturesque effect.

Beyond it, the **Blorenge** (1908 ft.) is a mass of old red sandstone capped by carboniferous limestone, and mill-stone grit, and is the cornerstone of the [N. crop of the S. Wales coal-field, which here turns to the S. to Pontypool and to the W. to Merthyr. Much beautiful scenery is to be found in the woods and dingles at its base, and in particular at the curious amphitheatre called "the Punchbowl," evidently formed by a landslip. The view from the summit on a fine day is very beautiful. It may be ascended most easily by keeping to the l. round the Punchbowl, an excursion of about 4 hrs. A carriage may be taken half the distance, or the ascent may easily

be made from the Govilon Stat. (Rte. 11.)

The **Sugar Loaf** mountain (1954 ft.) is frequently ascended on account of the view from its summit, which is accessible to within 100 yds. by a light carriage, an excursion of about 4 hrs. On foot the ascent is most conveniently made over the Rholben, the central of the three hills to the N. of the town. The walk may be varied by descending over the Derni, the hill to the right as you ascend over the Rholben.

The **Scyrrid Fawr** (1601 ft.), or Holy Mountain, is described in Rte. 4. It may be ascended by walking or driving 3 m. on the Ross road, and turning to the l. The descent may be made from the N. end to the Llanfihangel Stat.

Leaving Abergavenny, on the l. are the Union House, the rly. and turnpike road to Merthyr. The handsome grey stone mansion to the left is *The Brooks* (Capt. T. Hill). The tourist now skirts the hill-side along the l. bank of the Usk. The tops of the mountains are barren and craggy, but their slopes are checkered with plantations and enclosed fields dotted about with white cottages. The low ground is chiefly very rich meadow, which, however, frequently suffers in floods of the river.

18 m. rt. **Pentre** (Mrs. Wheeley).

19 m. l. **Llanwenarth** Church, with a Perp. tower, and beyond it, on the other side of the Usk, the villas of *Aberbaiden* and *Tymaur*. The two portions of the parish are still known as Llanwenarth ultra and citra Usk. To the rt. is Llanwenarth Graig, a wooded shoulder of the Sugar Loaf.

21 m. a stone on the roadside marks the boundary between England and Wales. On rt. is **Sunnybank** (Mrs. Parkinson), and immediately beyond it the village of

Llangwryney, where the little river Gwryney joins the Usk, which hard by is crossed by a neat lattice-girder bridge, erected in 1859 for the convenience of the residents on either side the river. On rt. 1 m. is the village of **Llangenau**.

22 m. rt. **Court-y-gollen** (Ven. Archdeacon Davies), in whose park stands an upright stone, 13 ft. high, probably Druidical. The small and graceful Gothic structure on the l. is a modern farm-house. On the opposite side of the river, well sheltered by a wooded bank, stands **Dan-y-park**, the well-timbered seat of Mrs. Crawshay, once the property of Mr. Skrine the traveller, and afterwards of Mr. Kendall. The tourist, if fortunate in his season and day, will understand why this part of the Usk is so extolled. The woods feather down to the water's edge; the river winds in graceful curves, and rippling rills from the mountains water the banks and produce a rich profusion of wild-flowers. Many neat and pretty villas are scattered about, giving the place an aspect of trimness and smiling prosperity; and the valley looks equally well in the bright green of spring or the golden tints of autumn.

23 m. ♂ **Crickhowel** called by Leland "a pretty townlet upon Usk," though the epithet is applied rather to the situation than the town itself, which, however, has much improved within the last few years. At the E. end, near the Abergavenny road, stand the ivy-clad ruins of the **Castle**, said to have once occupied a space of 8 acres in all, the structure itself with its keep, bailey, &c., covering 2 acres 1 rood and 14 perches, but now reduced to the fragments of a square and round tower. It was one of a small group of castles designed to check the incursions of the Welsh of Brecknock and Radnor through the dangerous

pass of Bwlch and the valley of the Rhiangoll.

The **Church**, restored in 1864, from designs by *Mr. C. West*, is a cruciform E. E. structure consisting of nave, chancel, and two transepts with a central tower surmounted by a shingled spire founded in 1303 by Lady Sibyl de Pauncefote, but much metamorphosed by the addition of 2 plain aisles. The two transepts are called respectively the **Gwernvale** and **Rumsey Chapels**; there are 2 fractured monumental effigies, in recesses of the wall of the chancel, of a cross-legged knight, perhaps Sir Grimbald de Pauncefote, and a lady supposed to have been the foundress; and a marble monument to Sir John Herbert of Dan-y-Castell and his lady, 1666. The chancel was restored in 1883. The view from the churchyard, looking up the Vale of Usk, is very lovely.

Near the W. extremity of Crickhowel stands a picturesque perpendicular Gothic gateway, originally attached to an old house of the Herberts, built in the reign of Henry VII., and called **Porthmawr**, but previously **Cwrt Garw**, forming the entrance to the residence of P. Davies, Esq. Through it is seen a landscape of extreme beauty, including views of **Glanusk Park** (Sir J. R. Bailey, M.P.), **Glanwysk Villa** (Mrs. Miles), and **Gwernvale** (Mrs. Lloyd). A long bridge leads across the Usk, to **Llangattoc**, 1 m. l., with a fine old church and picturesque church-yard.

Near it is **Llangattoc Park** (J. Evans, Esq.), a beautifully wooded domain of the Duke of Beaufort. In the cliffs of the mountain limestone of the hill above, which frown over the village, is a curious cave, which penetrates into the rock for some distance, and was formerly called **Eglwys Faen**, or the "stone church," a large vaulted chamber abounding in stalactites. It was probably used as a place of conceal-

ment. It is said that on the tableland of the mountain above was fought a great battle, in 728, between Ethelbald and the force of Glamorgan. The remains of a warrior were discovered under a cairn about 30 years ago.

Crickhowel receives its name from an ancient British camp, nearly triangular in form, which crowns the summit of the Table Mountain, or **Crug Hywel**, about 2 m. to the N.E. of the town. It has been attributed to Hywel ap Rhys, Prince of Gwent, who made war with the lord of Brecon, and probably used this as his frontier intrenchment.

Smollett, in 'Humphrey Clinker,' mentions "Crickhowel flannels," which were formerly in high repute; but they are no longer manufactured.

[A very pretty excursion can be made to **Llangenau**, 2 m., where the famous well of St. Cenau formerly enjoyed the repute of miraculous powers, and amongst other properties possessed that of giving the mastery of a house to the first of a new married couple that drank of it.

St. Cenau is evidently the same saint as St. Keyne, who also has a well in Cornwall, to which the same miraculous powers are attached. Hence the following incident is related by a Cornish Benedick:—

"I hasten'd as soon as the wedding was done,

And left my wife in the porch,

But i' faith, she had been wiser than I,

For she took a bottle to church."—*Carew*.

The church is one of the most picturesque little buildings in the county, situated close to the bank of the babbling Grwyney, in a very deep dell, overshadowed by hanging woods. On the opposite side are **Penydarren** (J. Doyle, Esq.), and lower down the pretty villa of **Tyn-y-vro**.

The whole of the walk up the

dingle to **Llanbedr**, 2½ m. E. of Crickhowel, is most lovely, and presents an endless variety of wood, water, and hill. The two streams of the Greater and Lesser Grwyney make the scene more attractive.

6 m. further, in a dell to the l. of the Sugar Loaf, is **Partrishow Church** (from *Parthau-yr-Ishow*, "the parcel of *Ishow*," the patron saint; or a corruption of *Merthyr Ishow*, *Ishow* the Martyr) a little, primitive, sequestered spot, buried in the heart of the mountains, with scarce a house in sight. It is very small, consisting only of a chancel and nave, but is remarkable for a roodloft of Irish oak (temp. Henry VII.) of great delicacy and beauty of execution, and for two stone altars at the E. end of the nave. There is also a chantry at the N. end of the church with a separate entrance, and a large stone altar with incised crosses. There is a good open roof of timber frame-work, and a very ancient font, with the legend 'In tempore Gynillyn Meilir me fecit.' Cynhyllyn was the son of Rhŷs Gôch, Lord of the district in the reign of Henry I. It is however in a very dilapidated condition. In the valley below the ch. is a bridge over the Grwyney, called **Pont-yr-Esgob**, or Bishop's Bridge, from whence Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, preached the Crusade in company with Giraldus Cambrensis. From hence a bridle-path may be followed to Llanthony Abbey (Rte. 4), about 6 m. On the return to Crickhowel, about 1 m. from the town, near the roadside, at a farm called *Tyn-y-lad*, was formerly an inscribed stone, with this inscription:—

TVRPILLI IZ IACIT

PVVERI TRILVNI DVNOCATI.

It has been recently removed to Glanusk Park.

The road to Brecon is carried on past scenes of surprising beauty. 24 m. on l. is **Glannant** (Miss

Bevan), on rt. **Gwernvale** (Mrs. Lloyd), and across the river, under the wooded slopes of the Llangattoc Hill, is **Glanwysk** (Mrs. Miles). On the rt. the rugged escarpment of the **Daren** mountain stands well out.

26 m. l. is **Glanusk Park**, the handsome seat of Sir J. Russell Bailey, Bart., a modern Elizabethan structure in a lovely park, with a 3-arched bridge and a castellated lodge, all in very good taste. Just above the bridge, in a most enchanting situation, on the bank of the river, and commanding splendid views of the neighbouring hills, is **Penmyarth Church**, erected by the late Sir J. Bailey as a family mausoleum. In the park is the famous Turpilian stone, which was transferred hither from the hill above Crickhowel. The Latin of the inscription is of the faulty character which is common in ancient Welsh-Latin.

[A little way on the Crickhowel side of Glanusk, a road to rt. goes to **Talgarth**, 10 m.

1½ m. on l. **Tretower Castle**, now reduced to a single round keep-tower, and some fragments of walls, stands on the l. bank of the Rhiangoll about 1 m. from its junction with the Usk. It consisted of a triangular enclosure, with two round towers at the N. and S. angles and a keep at the W. The two sides are each about 60 yds. in length, and the base about 80 yds. The keep is of peculiar interest to archaeologists because it affords a rare example of a rectangular Norm. keep which has been gutted and replaced by an E. E. round tower. Among local castles it most resembles Bronllys in character and date, though it has some good E. E. fire-places. The stones of Valens and Peregrinus, described in 'Arch. Cambr.,' 1851 (p. 227), have been built into the walls. Owain Glyndwr

nearly destroyed it in 1403, but it was afterwards hastily repaired; and as soon as the neighbouring castle of Dinas was destroyed, Tretower returned to its former insignificance. In **Tretower Court**, long the mansion of the Vaughans, from whose stock sprang the Silurist (Henry Vaughan), are some good specimens of Perp. domestic architecture, the mansion being of the 15th centy. The great hall is now a barn, but other apartments still retain their fine original roofs. Some additions to the old mansion have a defensive character.

3 m. **Cwmddu**, a pleasing little village, situated amidst most romantic scenery, and celebrated as the residence of the Rev. T. Price (Carnhuanwe), a man well known for his poetic imagination and ardent love for the Celtic remains and customs of his country. The church is a spacious building, with an embattled tower, and has a stone built into it, by Mr. Price, with the inscription

CATACVS HIC JACET FILIVS TEGE-
NACVS.

Another early incised stone is built in the S. wall, with an engraved cross of elegant design, and 2 escutcheons, that to the rt. supposed to belong to one of the De Sully family. This ch. has a rich and well-preserved rood-screen, forming a lining to the wall at the E. end. A barbarous flat ceiling hides the original roof.

A little below the village is **Gaer**, the site of a Roman station, by the side of which the Via Julia passed from Isca Legionum to Maridunum, or Caermarthen. Numerous coins of the Lower Empire, as well as fragments of bricks, have been found here. On the **Pentir Hill** there is a large camp partly of British and partly of Roman formation.

7 m. On a steep, conical hill on rt., above the road, is **Dinas**, the mere

outline of a castle, and "ruins almost to the hard ground" even in Leland's time, probably of the age of Edward I., and retaining some curious traces of an excavation or well, like that at Morlais, near Merthyr. The castle was attacked and taken by Ethelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great; but it was only garrisoned at the time by 33 women, all the males having taken the field with their lord, Hwgan, Prince of Brecknock. It was afterwards dismantled to prevent it falling into the hands of Owain Glyndwr.

From here the road winds at the foot of Mynydd y Troed to Talgarth, 3 m. (Rte. 16), and joins the Brecon and Hay road.]

From Glanusk the road runs at the base of the Myarth, upon which is an old British encampment. On the other side of the hill overlooking the beautiful defile of the Usk is **Gliffaas** (W. H. West, Esq.). At the foot of the Bwlch mountain a road to l. leads to **Llangynider**, a small but beautifully situated village, in the neighbourhood of which are some of the finest bits of scenery in S. Wales, particularly at **Dyffryn Crownant** and Buckland Mill (Rte. 9).

The road now rises, and winds considerably, until at 28 m. it reaches the summit of the **Bwlch Pass**, and descends the slope of Mynydd Buckland into the Vale of Brecon. Looking towards Crickhowel the view is almost grand; on the l. are the enormous mass of Penallt Mawr, Pencareg Calch, and the Daren, with the Sugar Loaf ending the view, while the rt. is occupied by the Myarth in the foreground, and the long ridges of the Llangynider and Llangattoc mountains behind. Here the traveller, looking at his map, becomes aware that he has crossed a great mountain ridge, extending N.E. and S.W., from the S. side of which rise most

Glamorgan, though the main rivers of the Wye and the Usk rise beyond it, and traverse it by the two deep valleys of Builth and Crickhowel, upon which therefore the Norman castles were thickly planted, as were, on even higher summits, those of the earlier Welsh. The great valley N., and at the foot of the scarp, is that of the Upper Wye and Upper Usk, whose courses are marked by the towns of Hay on the one and Brecon on the other, with Talgarth between them. The traveller who visits Breconshire, will find his account in mastering this piece of Welsh geography.

There is a fine view, from the other side of the Bwlch, of **Llangorse Lake**, or **Llyn Safaddan**, to which a road leads on rt. from the turnpike, passing l. the ruins of **Blaen-Lyfni Castle**, supposed to have been the residence of Hwgan, Prince of Brecknock, in the 10th centy. and fortified by the Normans in order to guard the important pass of Bwlch. About 1321 Blanylfini Castle fell into the hands of Peter de Montfort. In Leland's time the castle was deserted and decaying, as was also "the borough town," which adjoined it. The lake, which lies 2 m. to the rt., is about 5 m. in circumference, and abounds with most beautiful scenery, although of rather a melancholy character. The river Llynwy or Lleveny passes through it, and runs north to join the Wye. It ranks as the second lake in Wales, after Bala. In 1235 the monks of Brecon obtained permission from the Priory of Llanthony to fish in it 3 days a week and daily in Lent, provided they used only one boat. A tradition of a submerged city, to be seen at times below the waves, is attached to it.

"Structuras ædificii
Sæpe videbis inibi
Sub lacu; cum sit gelidus
Mirus auditur sonitus."

Another legend about it is that on

the coming of the rightful prince of the land the birds about the lake will recognise him by singing.

This lake is much frequented for the sake of its perch and pike-fishing, and in winter for its wild-fowl shooting.

In 1869 a "crannoge" was discovered off the island here by the Rev. E. N. Dumbleton, M.A.

On the l. bank is **Treberfedd**, the seat of R. Raikes, Esq., and the beautiful little church of **Llangasty Tal-y-Llyn**, restored in very good taste. It is dedicated to St. Gastyn, the tutor of Cynog, son of Brechan. It possesses a fine peal of bells, which have a peculiarly charming effect when heard from the lake.

The road at the E. of the lake passes through the village of **Llangorse**, the church of which has a good cradle roof, to **Talgarth**, 8 m. from Bwlch.

The tourist can, if he chooses, proceed from Llangorse Lake direct to Hereford or Brecon, by rail, from **TAL-Y-LLYN JUNCT.** (Rte 9), near Llangorse village.]

Descending the Bwlch Hill to Brecon, a fine view is gained on l. of **Buckland** (J. P. Gwynne-Holford, Esq.); **Talybont** village and *stat.* (from whence the traveller can proceed to Merthy, Rte. 9); and on rt. of the latter, the ch. of **Llansaintfredd** (Rte. 9), close to which the road passes over the Merthyr and Brecon rly, which is seen in the distance on l. ascending the lovely valley of **Glyn Collwng**.

33 m. **Llanhamlach** Church, shaded by magnificent yews, and close by *Peterstone*, the property of Sir J. R. Bailey, Bart.

At Manest Court, on rt., is **Ty-iltid**, the remains of a "Kistvaen" of prehistoric times.

35 m. l. The Usk is here crossed by 2 bridges, one carrying the road which leads from Brecon to Taly-

bont and Crickhowel, and the other the Brecon and Pontypool Canal.

1 m. l. are **Llanfrynach** Church, and **Maesderwen** (the seat of William De Winton, Esq.). A Roman villa was discovered near Llanfrynach.

35½ m. l. **Dinas** (John Lloyd, Esq.), charmingly placed in a bank of wood, below which is the race-course.

The approach to **Brecon**, 37 m. is extremely pretty. On rt., at the entrance of the town, are the *stat.* and the Barracks. Brecon, called by the natives **Aberhonddu**, is one of the most picturesque and beautifully situated towns in the principality; it is seated on the Usk at the point where two smaller streams, the Honddu and Tarel, pour into it, and the wide amphitheatre of hills and mountains around, broken in outline by the convergence of so many valleys opening towards this centre, is strikingly picturesque. The main feature in this panorama is represented by the twin peaks of the Beacons, or Vans (Rte. 9), the most elevated mountains in S. Wales, rising in great sublimity about 5 m. to the S. of the town, to a height of 2910 ft. These peaks are called by the Welsh "Arthur's Chair."

A bridge of 7 arches over the Usk connects the town with the suburb of Llanfaes on its S. side. There are 3 principal streets, leading respectively to Abergavenny, Caermarthen, and Hay, the latter being called the Struet. The **Castle** Hotel occupies the site of the ancient fortress, by which the Norman, Bernard Newmarch, in the reign of Rufus, secured the possessions, which he had gained by his sword, from the Welsh prince of Brecknock. The castle contained a considerable area, with two watchtowers at each angle. At the S. angle on an elevated mound is the keep, or Ely Tower, where Morton, Bishop of

Ely, plotted with the Duke of Buckingham against Richard III. Its form was an oblong parallelogram, 100 yards long by 80 wide. The castle is built out of the ruins of the old Roman tower situated 3 m. higher up the Usk, and Newmarch made this lordship his residence, and the capital of his march. It afterwards belonged to the great baronial families of Braose and Bohun Earl of Hereford. It stands on an eminence in an angle between the rivers Honddu and Usk; and the waters of the Honddu appear to have been carried round it to fill the moat. The scanty ruins remaining consist of 2 square towers in the garden of the hotel, not older than the time of Edward III., and of a lofty mound, on which stood the keep.

Within the walls of this castle, the union of the rival houses of York and Lancaster, and the scheme for dethroning Crookback Richard, and inviting Henry VII. to take his place, were concocted between Stafford Duke of Buckingham, its owner, and Morton Bishop of Ely, committed as a prisoner to his care by Richard. The result of the conference held in the Ely Tower of Brecknock Castle was, that the bishop was allowed to escape to Henry of Richmond, in Brittany, and that the duke lost his head at Salisbury.

The mound, on which the keep stood, is enclosed within a garden, now separated by the road from the rest of the ruins. The greater part of the castle was pulled down at the Great Rebellion by the townspeople, to prevent its being fortified or garrisoned by either of the contending parties, and thus involving the place in the miseries of a siege.

On a height a little to the N. of the castle, on the rt. bank of the Honddu, stands the **Priory Ch. of St. John**, originally the chapel of the Priory, founded in the reign of

Henry I. by Bernard Newmarch, seized with compunction for the deeds of violence by which he had obtained his possessions, and willing to disgorge a part of his booty to the Church, in the hope of securing peace to his soul after death. By the management of the baron's confessor, a monk of Battle in Sussex, the priory of Brecon was made dependent on that abbey. But little of the original edifice can be detected in the existing church, a large cruciform structure, partly shrouded with ivy, and shaded by venerable yew-trees. The whole building has been well restored in two instalments, so to speak; the latter completed in the present year by *Sir G. G. Scott*, whose report to the Restoration Committee remarks that "stern and massive as is the external form of this ch., and moderate as is the amount even of internal ornament, the *quality* of the architecture is as good, as well studied, and as refined as could be found in any building of the period in this, or perhaps in any other country." The chancel and transepts are chiefly in the E. E. style, lighted at the E. end by 5 lancet windows. "It was doubtless commenced at the close of the 11th centy.; but probably the nave might not have been completed till towards the middle of the 12th. The choir, transepts, and presbytery, rebuilt during the 13th and the 14th centy., gradually transformed the Norm. nave into a Dec. building." — *E. A. F.* A wooden screen separates the choir from the chancel. The eastern portions, including chancel, transept, and central tower, are of the earlier style of Pointed architecture, but in its more advanced form (date 1220 to 1230). The tower is singularly massive, reminding the visitor strongly of the tower of Llanbadarn Vawr, near Aberystwith (Rte. 18), and of other fortress-like towers of churches in S. Wales. The S. transept was anciently

called by the Welsh "the Chapel of the Red Men;" meaning the Normans, for whose use it was appropriated, while the Welsh occupied the other side. The chancel is of 4 bays in length, and was meant to be vaulted, to judge from the vaulting-shafts. The side bays contained fine triplets, and the E. end a window of 5 lancet lights of great depth. On each side of the chancel were originally two small chapels opening into each transept, which at a later period were considerably altered, those on the N. being thrown into one large chapel, whilst on the S. one chapel disappeared, and the other was altered, and a vestry added to its E. end. The latest restoration has embraced the vaulting of the chancel, the windows of the N. chapel, and the bringing both the transept roofs to the original pitch. There is a curious Norm. font, decorated with monsters' heads. In the restoration remains of sedilia and a triple piscina (on a large scale) were discovered. There are several monumental effigies of interest: the most remarkable representing the Crucifixion, the Virgin, and St. John, with angels in the angles above. Below are 4 kneeling figures of the persons in whose memory the stone was placed.

Portions still remain of the Priory walls and of an embattled gateway. The **Priory House**, contiguous to the churchyard, belongs to the Marquis Camden. King Charles I., fugitive after the fatal battle of Naseby, was received here by Sir Herbert Price, on the 5th of August, 1645; and George IV. passed a night here in 1821, after his return from Ireland.

The **Priory Wood** is a lofty grove, covering the steep slope at whose base runs the Honddu. There are pleasant walks beneath the shade of the fine trees and along the water-side; and another promenade, called the **Captain's Walk**, along the banks

of the Usk, under the old town walls.

St. Mary's Church is situated in the very heart of the town, and was enlarged in 1858. It was originally a Norman building, the traces of which are visible only in the N. aisle, but it appears to have been enlarged about the 14th centy. The tower is a good Perp. "of the Somersetshire type, about 90 ft. in height, and containing a peal of 8 bells."

The **College of Christchurch**, before the Reformation a convent of friar-preachers, was converted into a seat of learning, under a dean (the Bishop of St. David's) and 19 prebendaries, in the reign of Henry VIII., and is the oldest grammar-school Foundation in Wales. The charter of Henry VIII. assigns as its intent and purpose the remedy of the ignorance of the English language among the inhabitants of S. Wales. As a school, the Brecon College is taking a high stand amongst educational establishments, and a handsome range of buildings has been erected for the necessary accommodation.

The chapel of the college, in the suburb of Llanfaes, a small ancient building of E. E. style, but repaired and modernised soon after the Restoration, contains an antique stone cross, brought from the Aubrey Chapel, which stood close at hand, and was attached to the ancient church of St. Nicholas, destroyed by the Parliamentary Commissioners in the Civil War; the monuments of Bishop Bull and of several other bishops of St. David's, who lie buried here (a fact which might be urged as a plea for the founding of a see of Brecon with the priory church as its cathedral), together with one of Richard Lacy and his wife, bearing their recumbent effigies in the costume of the time of James II.

St. David's Church, in the district of Llanfaes, fell down in 1852, but was rebuilt in the Early Pointed style in 1859. The cemetery is remarkably pretty, and commands fine views.

In 1755 Mrs. Siddons was born here, at the Shoulder of Mutton, a public-house in High Street, now dignified by the name of "The Siddons' Wine Vaults," while her parents were on a professional tour.

The trade of Brecon consists in wood, leather, and coal, and is assisted by a canal to Abergavenny and Newport. The town has been much benefited by the 2 rlys. which run into it, and place it in direct communication with London and the North, and the South Wales coal-basin to Merthyr and Neath. The ascent of the Beacons occupies about 3 hrs. (Rte. 9).

ROUTE 13.

FROM BRECON TO NEATH, BY
DEVYNNOCK.

(*Neath and Brecon Railway*).

This line, opened in 1868, offers some of the most beautiful scenery in the Principality, in the valley of the upper Usk, and amidst the ranges of the Breconshire and Caermarthenshire Beacons.

The rly. follows pretty closely the course of the Usk, having on l. the suburb of Llanfaes and the County

Gaol, severed by Glyn Tarel, up which winds the road to Merthyr. A little way up is *Ffrwd-grech* (the heirs of Mrs. Pearce), in whose grounds is the very pretty little waterfall of Rhydgoch.

2 m. **Llanspyddid Church**, Early Dec., and surrounded by venerable yew-trees. The name is a corruption of "Llan-y-Spitty," from "Hospitium" supported here by Malvern Priory. In the churchyard is a tomb traditionally said to belong to Brychan Breichiniog. To the rt 1 m. is *Pennoyre*, the handsome seat of the representative of the late Sir Anthony Cleasby, a Baron of the Exchequer. The road up to it runs between two hills, each with its camp. On **Fenniwood** is one, said to occupy the site of a British city afterwards appropriated by the Romans. At **Pen-y-crug**, to the N. is a strong oval camp defended by a triple intrenchment, and another less interesting, on a hill opposite called "Slwch," with a twofold rampart. Gold and silver coins of the time of Nero have been found here.

3½ m. on the l. bank of the Usk at the confluence of the Yscir, is **Aberyscir Church**, planted round with yew, opposite to which, on the l. bank of the Yscir, near its junction with the Usk, and N.W. of Brecon, is the **Gaer**, a rectangular camp, supposed to be identical with Bannium, or Gaer Benni, a British town, which preceded Brecknock and was adopted as a station by the Roman general Ostorius Scaupula. The Norman conqueror of Brecknock transferred its stones to build his castle lower down the Usk, where the county town now stands. Several ramparts still exist, and the foundations of walls in places from 3 to 6 ft. high, partly overgrown with underwood, have withstood the depredations of man

and the wastes of the elements. From hence a Roman road leads N. past the megalith called **Maen-y-norwynion** (the Maiden Stone), with sculptured figures still in good preservation, in reality a monument to a Roman legionary and his wife; and still further N. a **Maenhir**—a memorial connected with Celtic traditions. From Bannium the Sarn Helan ran viâ Builth Rhayader and Montgomeryshire to Chester, and the Via Julia by 3 branches, all uniting at different points with the great Julian trunk road, which passed westward by Caerwent, Caerleon, Cardiff, and Carmarthen, to St. Davids.

4½ m. **Aberbrân Stat.**, at the confluence of the Brân with the Usk. On the rt. bank, a little further on, is the little church of **Capel Bettws**, and **Penpont** (Penry Williams, Esq.), a modern Italian house, in a lovely park along the Usk, and close to the "Pont," whence it takes its name; and ½ m. beyond is **Abercamlais** (Archdeacon Garnon Williams). Near this is the parish of Trallong, in which was found the famous Ogham bilingual stone, with the inscription, "Cunocenni filius Cunoceni jacit hic;" where the Ogham letters give the same as the Roman. The celebrated Owain Iolo Goch is said to have been buried in a field in this parish.

At Senni Bridge the line, leaving on rt. **Glanusk** (Rev. F. Hort), turns to the l. up the valley of the Senni to 8½ m. **Devynnock Stat.**, a large village overlooking the Senni. Into the tower of the church is built an inscribed stone, and near the village upon the Ystradgynlais road, is an early British circle, called the "Cerrig Duon," or Black Stones. In the reigns of Henry VII. and Elizabeth, the great and little forests of Devynnock, which in Norman times had involved the superintendence of a constable, were of suffi-

cient importance for "the deer, woods, underwoods and timber-trees to be reserved" by an Act of Parliament. There is now not a tree to be seen, and the fences are of stone.

Close to Pont Senni is a farmhouse, which bears the name of **Castell Ddu**, or Black Castle, from a fortress no longer existing, where formerly the Constable of the surrounding forest resided.

[From hence an excursion can be made, still up the valley of the Usk, to Trecastle and Llandovery, by the former mail road from London to Carmarthen. Beyond Glan Usk the road crosses the Usk by a bridge of one bold arch, much resembling Pontypridd (Rte. 15), and then gradually ascends the hill on the l. bank to

3 m. **Trecastle**, a large village in the parish of **Llywel**, having on rt., and to the N. of the turnpike-road, the mound and rather extensive earthwork of the castle, which was founded by Bernard Newmarch. The road and the river, after 38 m. of company, now separate, the latter, now a mere brook, rising about 6 m. S.W., and within ½ m. of **Llyn-y-fan-fawr**, a deep, fishless, mountain tarn, seated under the highest peak of the **Caermarthen-shire Beacon**, or Van, also sometimes called the Black mountain. This mountain, a very picturesque object, is cleft in two by a deep and narrow fissure, through which runs the boundary line of the county. The W. summit lies in Caermarthen-shire, and the E., or Trecastle Beacon, in Breconshire, rising 2596 ft. above the sea-level.

A view more extended and interesting than any in Wales, with the exception of that from Snowdon, may be obtained from this mountain upon a clear day. There is abundance of fish in the lesser lake, but anglers who wish to try it must take tents,

provisions, and all other accommodation with them.

4 m. rt. **Llywel Church** (restored), with a fine old tower. Between *Llywel* and *Trecastle* once existed a considerable lake, over which the *Gwyns*, who resided at *Trecastle* in great splendour, were rowed to ch. at the former place in an awned barge.—*Wood's 'Rivers.'*

The road here slowly ascends the back of a second escarpment, dividing the counties of *Brecon* and *Caermarthen*, and here called *Mynydd Bwlch-y-groes*; it then winds past **Horeb Chapel**, round the base of the *Black Mountain*, through the romantic glen of *Cwmdwr*, and descends to the side of a small stream, the *Gwydderig*, a tributary of the *Towey*.

7 m. **Halfway**. On l. is a small obelisk, erected to commemorate the turn-over and destruction of the mail-coach over a steep of 130 ft., the driver and passengers escaping unhurt.

After passing **Velindre** (*E. Jones, Esq.*) the valley expands, and in the midst of meadows that vie with lawns in softness and hue, the road approaches **† Llandovery**, 12 m. (*Rte. 19.*)

From *Devynnock* the rly. ascends the valley of the **Trewaren** by a very steep gradient, and near its head crosses the shoulder of the mountain into the head of the *Croi* valley, then under the steep slopes of the *Fan Gehirach* (2382 ft.), where it crosses the watershed of the *Tawe* and its tributaries. A wilder or more desolate scene can scarcely be imagined. Passing rt. the little village and ch. of **Capel Colbren** at the head of *Glyn Tawe*, the train arrives at 19 m. **Penwyll** Stat., built of the limestone of the neighbouring hills, and affording an easy mode of examining the shells and fossils imbedded therein. The tourist should

get out here for the purpose of visiting the waterfall of **Sewd Hw Rhodri**, nearly 3 m. to the S. The mountain views on each side are remarkably fine, the approximate height of this level above the sea being 1250 ft. The fall, one of the finest in S. Wales, occurs a little to the W. of the village of **Capel Colbren**. Here the *Llech* tumbles over the rock at a height of 100 ft. allowing the visitor to pass dryshod under the fall. *Sir W. Logan* discovered some erect fossil coal trees of the class named *Sigillaria*, in the bed of the river. In the primitive little church of **Capel Colbren** is a curious old tombstone, and close by are remains of a Roman road. From hence the **Cribarth** mountain forms a striking object in the scenery.

23 m. **Onllwyn** Stat. If the tourist comes from *Neath*, this will be the best stat. from which to visit the waterfall. Here are ironworks seated on the anthracite veins of coal.

From hence, too, the tourist may walk through the desolate region of the **Banwen**, and explore the *Pyrdd* river, with its falls (*Rte. 10.*)

The rly. here descends the valley of the *Dulais*, to

27½ m. **Crinant** Stat.

33 m. **NEATH JUNCT.** (*Rte 1.*)

ROUTE 14.

FROM CARDIFF TO RHYMNEY, BY
CAERPHILLY.

Quitting *Cardiff* from the Rhymney Stat. in Crockherbtown, the line soon passes, l., **Llandaff**, and going off to the right, after passing **Llanishen** Stat. reaches the cross valley to **Caerphilly**, whence there is a magnificent view looking up the **Aff vale** towards **Pontypridd** and the **Chondda Mountains**.

On l. is **Dyffryn Erw** (E. Williams, Esq.).

10 m. **Caerphilly**, situated at the very eastern edge of Glamorgan-shire, behind a ridge of hills which on the S. separate it from **Cardiff** (7 m.), and on the W. from the **Aff vale**. To the former town there is a direct road over the limestone hills and past *New House*. The village itself is poor and straggling, and the houses approach rather near to the walls of the old **Castle**, which is the most extensive as well as one of the most interesting ruins of a feudal fortress to be met with in the country, though on the whole, from its level position and the want of vegetation, less fitted to employ the pencil of the artist than the pen of the antiquary.

It has not been the scene of any great historical event. It was in its origin a purely military work, and ceased to be of importance as such upon the settlement of the Principality by Edward I.

The castle is described by Leland and others as standing on marshy ground, partly surrounded by a mere or lake. At present its walls are washed on the S. and S.E. sides by **Nant-y-Gledyr**, a tributary of the **Rhymney**; but there is evidence that anciently its waters were not merely employed to fill the two

moats which surrounded the fortress, but were also, as at **Kenilworth**, spread over a considerable tract by damming them up, thereby increasing the strength of the place and the difficulty of approaching it. The main entrance on the E. side of the castle was by a raised causeway (now converted into a garden) and pier of masonry, detached in the middle of the moat, the gaps on each side of the pier being crossed by drawbridges. The gatehouse, flanked by two turrets and surmounted by a tower 60 ft. high, was guarded by portcullis and stockades, and protected by loopholes in the turret walls. On the lower story are remains of a small fireplace and oven, apparently for heating pitch, lead, &c., for the annoyance of besiegers; here also was the apparatus for raising the drawbridge. This part of the moat is now generally dry, owing to the stream having been turned away from it. There is a postern gate to the rt. of the gatehouse. The usual entrance for visitors is on the S. side of the castle opposite the *tête-de-pont*. It will be observed that an abyss or chasm about 29 ft. deep and 5 wide separates the gatehouse from the long wall or curtain stretching N. from it on the rt. This is called in some ancient accounts the "North marsh ground." By help of this gap and of a wall (now levelled with the earth) carried from the gatehouse to the inner moat, this long rampart and outwork was divided from the rest of the edifice, so that, even if it were taken, the body of the place would be still safe and cut off from it. The communication between it and the gatehouse was kept up by drawbridges or planks of wood easily removed. This curtain, flanked towards the moat by 3 buttress-towers, stretches N. 360 ft.; a gallery of wood ran along behind it, allowing the gar-

rison to man the defences, and it terminated in another postern, flanked by 2 buttress-towers and provided with portcullis and draw-bridge. This long curtain at present looks unfinished, but it was never intended for more than an outwork; and when the castle was in a state of defence, the ground behind it was flooded and converted into a lake. The opposite and corresponding curtain or wing extended to the dam and sluices, by which the river was arrested, so as to form this inundation. This dam, being the keystone of the water defences, was strongly guarded by flanking towers on each side and by a *tête-de-pont* on the opposite side of the stream. Those who dismantled this castle let out the waters of the lake, by blowing up a large part of this curtain and wall, 15 ft. thick, including 2 buttress-towers; the rivulet now flows through the gap, being crossed by a rude wooden bridge, which rests on one of the broken fragments of masonry, serving instead of a pier.

To return to the great gatehouse. Standing within its portal on the N. are the foundations of the wall, which, with the chasm before mentioned, separated the N. curtain from the body of the place; on the S., the ruined lower story of the castle mill, set in motion by a rivulet from the stream; and W. the quadrangular body of the castle itself. It was also insulated by a moat, now dried up and covered with greensward, except where encumbered by ruins. It was surrounded by an outer wall with gates on the E. and W. sides, approached by drawbridges, within which stood lofty gatehouses and the chief buildings of the place, overlooking the outwork and leaving narrow terraces between. The outer gate on the E. side has been crushed by the ruins of the inner gatehouse,

which has been separated by an explosion in two parts—one has remained upright and tolerably perfect, while the other has fallen in fragments towards the moat. It was originally provided with gates, portcullis, stockades, and holes in its roof for pouring hot metal or pite on the heads of assailants, and on the first floor is a large room with a wide fireplace. Passing through the gatehouse, the visitor enters the inner court or bailey of the castle, which in its original state must have been very imposing. In front rises the western gatehouse, tolerably perfect on the l. is the **Great Hall**, having rich windows and a doorway with ogee-shaped arches and decorated ball-flower ornaments in the mouldings; the corbels which support its wooden roof are of triple-clustered columns. A close examination of the walls, however, leads to the impression that there was an earlier roof before that which these corbels supported. The present or third roof was placed on them anew by the Marquis of Bute, in the year 1871, when he entertained here the Cambrian archaeologists. E. of the hall is the chapel. From the side of the hall, opposite the fireplace, proceeds a wide passage slanting downward to the moat, here of great breadth and proved by the mark on the walls to have been about 12 ft. deep. The passage is curiously vaulted by a series of arches hanging one below the other like inverted steps: at its lower entrance was a place for storing boats. The moat or lake is now fine green-sward. Between the E. gatehouse and the hall are the offices: the kitchen called the Mint, and provided with fireplaces with thick walls, had one a vaulted roof. There is great difficulty in identifying the rest of the offices; one is provided with an oven and open tank. The inner bailey was defended at the angles by lofty and very thick bastion-towers.

upon which the chief violence of the demolishers of the castle has been expended, so that they have all been more or less overthrown. One of these in the S.E. corner, on your l. hand as the inner court is entered, is the **leaning tower**, 80 ft. high, and projecting 9 ft. over its base. It must have been mined and blown up with gunpowder; but the cylinder of masonry, 10 ft. thick, was so solid, that even its parapet remains perfect; and although it is split in twain by the explosion, it has only slit downwards, sinking for some depth into the earth and leaning over: the rest of the tower, towards the court, has been broken in pieces. At the W. end of the hall are the *staté* apartments. Galleries in the thickness of the wall, looped towards the outside, run round a part of the castle, and are still accessible, though the removal of every fragment of iron and most of the freestone has led to the demolition of many staircases, and the sills, mouldings, &c., of the doors and windows throughout the building. On the W. side of this bailey rises the W. gatehouse, having on rt. an apsidal chamber with a pointed roof. The gatehouse conducts to the back entrance of the castle, which was strongly defended by an outer gatehouse. The side walls of this latter are now broken through, and it is approached by a drawbridge over the moat, the hollow pier for sustaining which remains. This led to the hornwork, an irregular polygon of earth. A dam or ridge of earth extended from this hornwork along the N. side of the castle and separated the moat from the lake beyond it; the water was admitted from the moat into the pond through a sluice in this dam. In addition to these works, composing the fortifications of the ancient castle, there rises on the N.W. angle, detached therefrom, an eminence crowned with a more modern fort or re-

doubt, evidently thrown up after the discovery of gunpowder, probably during the wars of the Great Rebellion, to which period the blowing up of the towers may be assigned. Its shape is an irregular quadrangle, with rude bastions at the 4 corners surrounded by a fosse.

The Castle of Senghenydd, probably of very rude structure, may have stood on or close to this site; but the existing building may be safely attributed to Gilbert de Clare and to the year 1270 or thereabouts. The W. gatehouse, however, is said to be later, and perhaps the whole exterior line of defence to the E.

The Castle was never the residence of any great baronial family, though its name often occurs in connection with the unhappy race of Despencer. It now belongs to Lord Bute.

Near Caerphilly, and partially built of its materials, is the *Van*, long the seat of the ancient Glamorgan family of Lewis, but which passed out of the male line by an heiress, to the Earls of Plymouth, and from them again through an heiress to Lord Windsor.

1 m. from Caerphilly is **Pwl-y-pant**, the picturesque cottage of the late W. Williams, Esq.

15 m. **Ystrad Stat.** The vale of the Rhymney here narrows considerably, and presents a pleasing contrast to the broad amphitheatre of hills in which the castle of Caerphilly is situated. **Ystrad Church**, on rt., is a pretty building, in good taste, partly erected by the late Rev. Geo. Thomas, whose residence—the **Court**—is but a short distance on the rt.

16 m. **HENGOED JUNCT.** with the Great Western Rly. (Rte. 10), which is carried across the vale by a lofty viaduct, the tall narrow arches forming a prominent feature in the scenery.

On the opposite side of the valley, running parallel, is the Newport and Brecon Rly. (Rte. 9.)

17½ m. **Pengam Stat.** Immediately on W. are the Gelligaer schools and chapel.

19 m. **Bargoed Stat.** The Newport and Brecon Rly. here crosses the Rhymney Rly. on its way up the Bargoed Rhymney valley to Dowlais.

21 m. **Tir Phil Stat.** Here are large coke ovens, and on the opposite side of the valley is the colliery of New Tredegar.

23½ m. **Pontlottyn Stat.**, a suburb of Rhymney.

24½ m. **Rhymney Iron Works** (*Inn*: Castle), the property of a joint-stock company, who have endeavoured in their construction to engraft some fine art even upon iron-works, the furnaces being built in a massive Egyptian form. From hence the traveller may proceed to Merthyr by road or may join the London and North-Western Rly. at **Nantybwech Stat.** (Rte. 11.)

ROUTE 15.

CARDIFF TO MERTHYR, BY PONT-Y-PRIDD.

(*Taff Vale Railway.*)

Cardiff (Rte. 1). The terminus of the Taff Vale Railway is situated in Crockherbtown, close to the Newport Road, but the trains run and the line is measured from the Docks, 1¼ m. distant. It was opened in 1841, and was constructed under considerable engineering difficulties, overcome with great skill by the late George Bush, Esq., engineer to the Company.

The Taff and its tributary valleys include some of the finest scenery in S. Wales, and much that for sunny, smiling beauty is unsurpassed in Britain. The Taff owes its charm to the extremely unequal breadth of its valley, and to its sudden and unexpected windings. The Rly. has several sharp curves, some steep gradients, and at one point a considerable incline, and a tunnel upon its course. The canal between Cardiff and Merthyr cost 100,000*l.*, and was opened 1798. There are 40 locks upon it, and it rises nearly 600 feet.

4½ m. **Llandaff Stat.** (Rte. 1): on approaching which the lofty spire of the cathedral and the groves and summer-house in the Dean's garden are seen about 1 m. on the l., with the neat little church of Radyr.

A little beyond the stat. is the junction of the tidal line, which runs down to the harbour and docks of **Penarth**, joining the Ely Valley Rly.

The whole of this part of the line is upon a loose drift of sand and large stones plentifully spread over the valley of the Taff. On the rt. is the **Heath** (G. Thomas, Esq.).

$\frac{1}{2}$ m. further on the rt. is a fine wooded bank, at the base of which sweeps the river supplying **Melin-griffith** Tin-plate Works.

$6\frac{1}{2}$ m. The **Pentyrch Works** stand just within the picturesque pass of Castell Coch, overshadowed on the l. by the Lower and immediately beyond the Great Garth, 981 ft. above the sea. To the rt. of the stat. is **Greenmeadow** (H. Lewis, Esq.), a branch of the Lewises of the Van, an ancient Glamorganshire family, tracing back through Ivor Bach of Castell Coch to Gwaethfoed, Lord of Cardigan and Cibwyr in the 10th centy. At the Pentyrch Iron-works the iron is manufactured to supply the tin-plate works of Melin-griffith.

The situation of **Castell Coch**, so called from the red tint of the material with which it is built, is admirable, overhanging the pass on a precipitous escarpment of mountain-limestone. Facing the Taff, and commanding a view of the Channel beyond Cardiff, it was a most important post. Its plan was that of a triangle, a round tower at each angle, of which the one on the N.W. is in the best preservation. In style it is probably E.E., about the reign of Henry III. It was the key of the upper country. "A beacon-fire upon the headland of Penarth, answered here and on the opposite Garth, would be repeated from the summits of the distant mountains of Brecon and Caermarthen, and would at once spread the tidings of invasion over the whole of the southern coast."—*G. C.* Castell Coch is supposed to be the site of Ivor Bach's original castle.

Through this pass Owain Glyndwr

is supposed to have descended when he burnt the episcopal palace of Llandaff, and ravaged Cardiff.

"The vale of Tâf was necessarily the scene of many of the great transactions of war, as it now is of those of peace, between England and S. Wales, and the pass and fortress of Castell Coch form the boundary and key between the country of the mountain and the plain. From hence, in the words of a yet extant triad, may be seen the length and breadth of 'that beautiful country, the land of the courteous and gentle people, where the wives are honoured and the walls white.' Up this pass sped that Saxon band who, fearing not God nor regarding man, placed the celestial crown of martyrdom upon the temples of the maid of royal birth. Here stood 'Aneurin of the flowing eulogy, chief of Bards,' and poured forth his animating strains, while his half-clad and ill-armed countrymen waged bloody but unsuccessful war against the iron-clad bands of the invader."—*Westm. Review*.

It was from hence that issued Ivor Bach (Little Ivor), upon that desperate raid on Cardiff which nearly resulted in the wresting of the country from the hands of the Norman spoilers. A curious belief obtains amongst the peasantry of the neighbourhood, that a huge chest, filled with treasure and guarded by gigantic ravens, is here hidden. The Castle belonged to the great family of Clare, and is now the property of the Marquis of Bute, who has caused it to be restored, in strict accordance with what has been ascertained of its original structure, and it is now habitable.

7 m. WALNUT TREE BRIDGE JUNCT., whence the Rhymney Rly. takes its departure on the rt. to Caerphilly and Rhymney (Rte. 14).

8 m. l. is **Taff's Well**, so called from a tepid medicinal spring which bubbles up in the bed of the river, and which is constantly employed

as a bath for rheumatic patients. It is about 4 ft. in diameter, and has a wall around it 2 ft. high. To the W. the coal-measure sandstones of the Garth Hill, and on the E. the corresponding height of Craig-yr-Alt, are well seen.

A road runs hence, on rt., to Caerphilly, 4 m. The line is now completely within the coal-field, symptoms of which begin to be apparent everywhere in the number of collieries and levels in the hill-sides. The curves are very sharp, and in some places the line runs along a narrow shelf on the mountain-side 100 feet above the river.

12 m. TREFOREST JUNCT., opposite which, on l., is the residence of T. Crawshay, Esq., and on the rt. are his tin-plate works and the pretty little church of Glyn Taff.

[A branch of 10 m. runs in here from Llantrissant and Cowbridge (Rte. 1), accommodating an out-of-the-way district of the S. Wales coal-fields.

It passes the mining village of **Llantwit** (Stat.), and then across elevated ground to (6 m.) Llantrissant, soon after which it crosses the Gt. Western at LLANTRISSANT JUNCT.]

‡ **Pontypridd**, 13 m., has become a considerable place, the rising prosperity of which is due to the number of collieries opened in the neighbourhood and in the Rhondda valley, which joins the Taff Vale on the l. Not far from the Stat. is the well-known bridge of Pontypridd (or Bridge of the earthen Hut), "a single arch spanning the Taff, 140 ft. span, and 35 ft. height, completed 1755 by a self-taught country mason, William Edwards, whose history is related at length in the 'Pursuit of Knowledge,' v. ii. p. 353. He undertook, in 1746, at the age of 27, to build a bridge over the Taff, at a

spot where the river is broad and its banks low, and completed a very light structure in three arches, giving security that it should stand for 7 yrs. Within 3 yrs., however, a flood occurred of extraordinary height, which carried down trees, hay, &c., before it in such quantities that they were caught by the piers and formed a dam, behind which the water accumulated to such a height that the bridge at last gave way under its pressure. Edwards then conceived the bold design of spanning the river with a single arch of the present dimensions (the segment of a circle of 170 ft. diameter), and completed it. But the lowness of the approaches and the want of natural abutments of firm rock rendered it necessary to load the spring of the arch on either side with a great mass of masonry, and before the parapets were finished, the pressure on the haunches drove up the crown of the arch and it fell in. Unshaken in courage, he renewed the attempt upon the same scale, but lightened the masonry by perforating it with 3 cylindrical tunnels, 9, 6, and 3 ft. in diameter, an anticipation of the principle of our tubular bridges. This expedient succeeded. The bridge has stood unshaken since 1755, and the cylindrical apertures have given an air of great lightness and elegance to the structure.

The Rialto at Venice is 98 ft. in span; one of the arches of the Roman bridge of Narni is 142 ft.; and an old bridge over the Allier, in the Department of Haute Loire in France, 181 ft. But in 1750 no arch in England had much more than half the intended span of Pontypridd, and the existence of works of which the architect could never have heard, detracts nothing from the boldness of his undertaking. His success secured to him high reputation and much employment during the remainder of his life, and he brought up one of his sons in the same pro-

fession; indeed, a large proportion of the best and handsomest bridges in Wales were constructed in later years by the two Edwardses, father and son. Owing to its extreme steepness, however, as well as narrowness, it is almost impracticable for carriages, so that another bridge was made near it in 1857, to the great detriment of the picturesqueness of the first. Underneath the bridge Echo is said to repeat a word ninefold. On an eminence facing the river, stands the **Maen Chwyf**, or rocking-stone, "where the bards and minstrels from time immemorial occasionally congregate in order to confer the different degrees of bardism on aspiring candidates." There are at Pontypridd large chain and cable works, belonging to Messrs. Brown and Lenox, where the chain-work at Brighton pier was fabricated. The whole of the neighbourhood is very pretty, and a day may be well spent in rambling over the hills that surround it.

[A beautiful excursion may be made up the valley of the **Rhondda**, the largest of the Taff's tributaries, which contains some of the most charming scenery in S. Wales. Of late years, however, the seclusion and romance of the vale have been much broken by the search after its mineral treasures, and a rly. traverses it up to the very head.

2 m. **Hafod Stat.** Here are some rapids, which, when the river is at all full, are worth stopping to look at.

3½ m. **Porth Stat.** Near this is **Cymmer**; a rather populous village, situated, as the name implies, at the confluence of the Rhondda Fach with the Rhondda Fawr. Cymmer will ever be remembered with grief and woe by hundreds in Wales, for it was the scene of one of the most widely-spread calamities that this district has ever known. On the

morning of July 15th, 1856, 114 colliers were swept into eternity at one fell swoop by an explosion of firedamp in a pit belonging to Messrs. Insole. There was not a house in Cymmer that had not a corpse in it, and scarcely a married woman who was not made a widow by that terrible calamity. But, unfortunately, such occurrences are not uncommon in this neighbourhood, the explosion at *Ferndale* Colliery in 1868, in the Rhondda Fach, being even more destructive.

The pedestrian will do well to ascend the valley of the **Rhondda Fach** for about 2 m. and then cross the hill to the l. at **Pen Rhys**—so called because Rhys mustered his forces here prior to his defeat at Hirwain—and rejoin the road at Gelli-dawel.

4½ m. **Pandy Stat.**

8 m. **Ystrad Stat.**

Ystrad-y-Fodwg is a lonely and primitive little village, the only one in the whole vale, with a small church by the river-side. The valley is rather wider here, and there are a few good farms; the hills, however, become more precipitous and bold, particularly on the l. at Craig-yr-Afon and Craig-Ogwr, where there is a grand amphitheatre of mountain, as fine as anything in the scenery of the coal-basin. The tourist in the Rhondda valley and its surrounding hills should go provided with a full flask and sandwich-box.

The terminus of the branch is reached at 11 m. **Treherbert Stat.**

At **Cwmsaebraen** the glen is still wilder and narrower, and quite alpine in character. Here is a large colliery belonging to the Marquis of Bute, who owns almost the whole of the minerals underlying the valley, and derives a large revenue from the royalties of the various mines.

Ty-newydd, a little higher up, is an old Welsh farm-house, for many generations the residence of the family of Edwards, who was a farmer as well as bridge-builder, and whose present representative still holds it. The pedestrian can ascend the opposite mountain at Cwm Selsig and cross over into the defiles of Glyn Corrwg; a difficult and fatiguing walk, and one not to be undertaken without the aid of an Ordnance map.

“Above Cwmsaebraen the glen becomes wilder and the road steeper and less cared for. The Rhondda sparkles beneath like a silver stream, and at the very head of the dingle the waterfalls can be discerned leaping over the rocks. Huge blocks of stone lie around in confusion, and it is evident that the traveller has left for a time the regions of civilisation and commerce and is fairly alone with nature. The aspect of this glorious scene must be strangely different in winter-time, and the cairns by the roadside are memorials of the severity of the weather, by which sundry poor wayfarers have lost their lives.”—*G.P.B.*

From the top of the mountain a magnificent view is gained over the vale of Neath and Aberpergwm to the l., with Hirwain and the Aberdare valley to the rt. Far in the distance, range after range of hill rises up until the Beacons close the view, while just at the foot of the steep escarpment of Craig-y-Llyn, the lakes of Llyn Fawr and Llyn Fach snugly repose. The pedestrian can walk from here over **Bwlch-y-Lladron** (Robbers' Pass) to Aberdare, or clamber down the precipitous gullies of Craig-y-Llyn to Glyn Neath Stat. in the Vale of Neath (Rte. 10.)]

16½ m. **ABERDARE JUNCT.** Here the valley of the Cynon joins the Taff, and up it a branch-line and a branch-canal are carried, to Aberdare. The whole of this neighbour-

hood is exceedingly pretty. A pleasant walk of about 2½ m. may be had by ascending Craig-yr-efan on the rt., and from thence to Llanfabon, a small mountain village.

[Branch-line to Aberdare, 8 m.

2½ m. **Penrhiw Ceibr Stat.**

4 m. **Mountain-Ash Stat.**, to the rt. of which rises the eminence of **Twyn-bryn-bychan**, from whence, on a fine day, the view extends from the Beacons on the N. to the Bristol Channel and Somerset hills on the S. Just below it, on the Taff Vale side, is **Daren-y-cig-fran**, the scene of a great landslip, which has left a precipitous scarp, and lies in broken heaps below. The scarp is crowned with beech- and oak-wood, and the view both up and down is wide and beautiful. For account of the Navigation and Duffryn Collieries, see Rte. 10. The line now runs at a little distance from, and parallel with, the Great Western Rlyw. (Rte. 10.)

4½ m. on rt. **Duffryn**, the seat of the Right Hon. Lord Aberdare.

6 m. **Treaman Stat.**, near which is, to l., **Aberaman**, an Italian mansion, formerly belonging to Crawshay Bailey, Esq. On l. are Aberaman Ironworks, well known as the subject of an important litigation. The pedestrian may follow the course of the little river Amman, and cross over into the valley of the Rhondda Fach.

8 m. **Aberdare Stat.** (Rte. 10.)]

The line from Aberdare Junct. ascends a rather steep incline, and is then carried over the Taff on a stone viaduct built on a curve, the scenery on each side being of a wild and very picturesque character to

18 m. **QUAKERS' YARD JUNCT.**

with the Great Western Rly. The little village, so called from having been the site of a burying-place for the Society of Friends, is beautifully situated in a curve of the valley, shut in on all sides by hills. Near Quakers' Yard the Taff is joined by the Bargoed Taff from the E., and the waters of the Cynon on the W.

22 $\frac{1}{4}$ m. **Troed-y-rhiw** Stat. The valley here widens considerably, and, although its mountains are not less high, they are not seen to such advantage. On rt. of the Stat. are the *Plymouth* Ironworks, the property of the Plymouth Iron Company. They are neatly constructed and well arranged.

Passing under the viaduct of the Vale of Neath Rly., the train arrives at

24 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Merthyr Tydfil** (Rte. 9).

"The ancient history of the Merthyr district gave little promise of its present wealth and population. Tydfil, the sister of Rhun Dremrudd, was the daughter of Brychan, the Celtic Christian prince of Garthmadrin. Pagan Saxons from Loegria burst into the peaceful valley, carried fire and sword into its recesses, and ruthlessly slaughtered the virgin with her kinsfolk. A future age erected a church to the memory of the event, and the village took the appropriate name of 'Tydfil the Martyr,' or 'Merthyr Tydfil.' Such is a legend of the Cambrian martyrology, and the foundation of the history of the district, 'of which,' as old Fuller observes, 'every man may believe his proportion.'"—*Westminster Rev.*

The present town, which, with the neighbouring works of Penydarren, Cyfarthfa, and Dowlais, has an enormous population, has arisen in the last 60 years from an inconsiderable village, by reason of the vast manufacturing of iron that have sprung up in that period.

Merthyr, though becoming a little more like a civilised and well-or-

dered town, has no public buildings of any interest. The parish church is an extremely plain building; in the outer wall is an inscribed slab of old red sandstone, the inscription of which is considered to represent "Arthen," a brother of St. Tydfil. St. David's new church is a neat building, erected in 1846. Merthyr is said to have been the first parish in the Principality in which a Dissenting congregation was formed (circ. 1620). The celebrated Vavasor Powell was taken up while preaching here, and put in prison at Cardiff. There are now not less than 30 different Dissenting communities, though the Church is represented by energetic and eloquent pastors.

The **Penydarren Works** are situated just outside the town on the N. They were once the property of the late Alderman Thompson and Mr. Forman, but have long been closed, a serious loss to the town and trade of Merthyr generally, and still more so to the many hundreds of workmen who were employed here. **Penydarren House**, an old seat of Mr. S. Homfray, is now used for the purposes of an excellent proprietary middle-class school. About 2 m. on the road to Abergavenny is Dowlais (Route 9).

Merthyr can boast of being the place where the first locomotive steam-engine was ever launched, in 1805, by Messrs. Vivian and Trevelthick. It was tried on the Taff Vale line, or rather tramway, as it was then, on which it ran pretty well as far as Pontypridd, from whence, however, no inducements could prevail upon it to stir.

For a general description of the iron manufacture, see *Introduction*, p. xiv.

1 m. on l. are the **Cyfarthfa Works**, the property of Mr. Crawshay, second only to Dowlais in magnitude, and on the whole the best adapted

for a visit. About 1765 Mr. Anthony Bacon received from Lord Talbot, of Hensol, a lease for 99 years of the mineral ground, about 8 m. long by 4 broad, at the rate of 200*l.* per annum. He erected a furnace at Cyfarthfa, and supplied Government with cannon until 1782. The works passed through several hands into the ownership of Messrs. Crawshay and Hill, the former of whom commenced life as a sharp Yorkshire lad, went to London to seek his fortune, and began by sweeping out the warehouse of his master, dying in 1868 worth four millions—one of the many instances which this country has afforded, of shrewd, hardworking men who have won their way up to fortune and independence by their own exertions. To the l., the road to Aberdare and Swansea stretches up the side of Mynydd Aberdare. Immediately above the works on the rt., stands **Cyfarthfa Castle**, the residence of W. Crawshay, Esq. It is in a good position, backed up by wooded hills, and its general appearance, for a modern castle, is not amiss. The round tower is very good indeed, and the grounds are neatly kept. The broad terrace in front and the extensive greensward carry away the tourist, as he gazes on them, from the grime and blackness of the surrounding region.

From here the tourist may visit the waterfall of Pontsarn and Morlais Castle (Rte. 9).

ROUTE 16.

FROM HEREFORD TO BRECON, BY
HAY AND TALGARTH.

(*Hereford, Hay, and Brecon Railway.*)

There are two ways of reaching Hay from Hereford:—1st, by rly., 2nd, by turnpike road on l., rt. bank of the Wye, by which the traveller will have to post or walk, as there is no public conveyance.

By Rail.—The Stat. is the Barton, and the Brecon Rly. soon leaves the main line, turning to the l.

3 m. on l., at **Sugwas**, was once a palace of the bishops of Hereford; fragments of it are incorporated in the present mansion, erected in 1792, when the chapel was taken down. The manor is the property of the Governors of Guy's Hospital.

The ch. of **Stretton Sugwas** has a Norm. doorway, with a sculptured tympanum of Samson pulling a lion's jaws asunder, and a singular wooden tower. There are also some encaustic tiles, and a good oak rood-screen. In the rectory grounds is an elm, which girths 21 ft. 2 in. at 5 ft. from the ground.

4½ m. **Credenhill Stat.** On the hill (715 ft. at the summit) on the rt. are the remains of an ancient British encampment, enclosed by a double and precipitous ditch, containing about 50 acres, with 8 entrances, and overlooking the Roman stat. at Kenchester (Magna Castra). In the *Ch.* is a series of windows showing the development of Dec. tracery, from the simple uncusped lancet to the reticulated window of

the 14th centy. In one of the chancel windows are two figures in old stained glass of Bishop de Braos (1214) and Thomas de Cantilupe (1275). "The Prophet Elm," in **Credenhill Park** (F. W. Herbert, Esq.), has a clear hold of 40 ft., and girths 14 ft. 11 in.

On l. 1 m. is **Kenchester**, occupying the site of the Roman station *Magna Castra*, mentioned in the *Itinerary of Antoninus*, which stood upon the ancient Watling Street. The form of this station is an irregular hexagon, inclining to a parallelogram; the area 21 acres, now divided into two enclosures, is raised at least 4 ft. above the level of the adjacent country, and was surrounded by a wall, the foundations of which may yet be traced. Roman coins and a few remains have been found here.

On l. **New Weir** (Captain J. H. Griffiths), situated on a steep ascent above the river, which, indulging here in one of its beautiful curves, affords, from its serpentine course, extensive and picturesque views. Guy's Hospital possesses in Herefordshire about 30,000*l.* per annum in land, and has a large estate in this neighbourhood.

A little further on, overhanging the road, is the small Early Dec. church of **Bridge Sollars**. At this spot is the commencement of **Offa's Dyke**, distinctly visible the whole way to Mansel Gamage, and from thence due N. to Upperton. The traveller frequently gains fine views on the l. of the high hills which contain the sources of the Monnow and other tributaries of the Wye and Usk.

2 m. N., a little to the W. of Credenhill Camp, is the interesting **Ch. of Brinsop**. In the aisles are windows of good E. Dec., and on the N. wall is a sculpture of St. George's triumph over the Dragon. In the chancel are monuments to

the Danseys, who resided for at least 3 centuries at the **Court**,—a house surrounded by a deep moat, and a valuable example of early 14th-centy. work. The fine timber roof of the hall, now used as a granary, is well worth inspecting. The **Court** was rented early in this centy. by Mr. Hutchinson, a brother-in-law of the poet Wordsworth; and a tree planted by the latter and his predecessor in the Laureateship, Southey, is still shown there. The monumental slab of Lady Douglas Dudley, granddaughter of the notorious Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and wife of Captain William Dansey of Brinsop, is preserved in the neatly-kept churchyard.

Westmoor is a flag station for the use of **Foxley** (Rev. G. H. Davenport). This estate was acquired (temp. Charles II.) by Mr. Baron Price on his marriage with a co-heiress of the Rodds of Rodd and Foxley. He erected the present mansion in 1717, and died 1732. By his grandson, Sir Uvedale Price, author of a well-known 'Essay on the Picturesque,' the grounds and plantations were greatly improved, and a charming ride of 1½ m. was formed through a luxuriant wood to the point of **Lady Lift**, from whence a view is obtained, deservedly admired. The park abounds with stately oaks, elms, and fine conifers. The public are allowed the privilege of access on week days during the summer months.

9 m. **Moorhampton Stat.** *Offa's Dyke* may be seen in an unaltered state, 20 yards south of the stat. The **Ch. of Yazor** on rt., rebuilt by Sir Robert Price, and enlarged by the late Mr. Davenport, contains monuments to Mr. Baron Price, Sir Uvedale, Sir Robert Price, and other members of that family. There are some richly-carved wooden stalls and painted windows by *Warrington*.

2 m. S. is **Garnons** (Sir H. G. Cotterell, Bart.), an embattled mansion, erected in 1816, from designs by *Atkinson*, well placed in a thickly-wooded park overlooking the Wye, across which, at **Byford**, is a ferry, conveying horses and carriages to the Madley side. In the gardens of Garnons the modern style of gardening is brought to a high state of perfection.

In the **Ch. of Mansel Gamage** is an elaborately sculptured sepulchral stat. of 13th centy., and tablets to the Cotterell family.

3 m. 1. is the striking church of **Staunton-on-Wye**, and between it and the river are **Monnington** ch. and village, with its long avenue of Scotch firs, known as Monnington Walk. The "Monnington Oak" is a noble tree 31 ft. in girth. Monnington was formerly the residence of a powerful family of that name, one of whom married a daughter of Owain Glyndwr, who, according to tradition, died here and was buried in the churchyard, A.D. 1415. No memorial marks the place of his sepulture, but in 1680 a grave supposed to have contained his remains was discovered. The body was "whole and entire, and of goodly stature." The upper stone was carefully replaced and the earth cast upon it.—*Harl. MSS.*

Brobury Scar is a prominent object here. Its principal beauty consists in the bold and abrupt manner in which it rises to a considerable elevation above the river. It is reached by Monnington Walk, which is also the direct route, after crossing a private iron bridge over the Wye, to Moccas, the estate and mansion of the Rev. Sir G. H. Cornewall, Bart., whose ancestor obtained it in the reign of Charles I. by marriage with the heiress of the Vaughans. The finely timbered park has the largest weeping-oak in England, be-

sides several famous oaks, *e.g.* the Club Oak, 94 ft. in height, and 19 ft. 5 in. in girth; the Tall Oak, 118 ft. in height, 18 ft. 7 in. in girth; and the "Moccas Oak," dating back to the Henrys and the Edwards, and having a circumference of 36 ft. at 3 ft. from the ground. The curious Norm. **Ch.** here, built of travertine, and recently restored in excellent taste, is worth a visit. It has an early Norm. font, and an eastern apse.

Moorhampton is the nearest stat. to **Weobley**, 4 m. N. (*Handbook for Herefordshire*).

11 m. **Kinnersley** Stat. The **Castle** (Thomas Reaveley, Esq.) is of the reign of James I., built by the Delaberes, and has had numerous owners. The **Church** (E. E.) has portions of Norm. and Dec. work. The oak reredos is quite a curiosity. The centre is occupied by 3 small figures of our Lord, the Virgin, and St. John. The tower is semi-detached on the N. end of the W. side, and is a well-proportioned structure, surmounted with a plain saddleback roof. The view from the top of it amply repays the trouble of the ascent.

2½ m. rt. **Sarnesfield Court** (M. C. Salvin, Esq.), a seat of the Monnington family from an early period. There is a famous old oak here, known as the Sarnesfield oak.

2 m. l. close to the river is **Letton Court** (Rev. H. Blissett) opposite Bredwardine.

14 m. **Eardisley** Stat. whence a line is now open to Kington, with intermediate stations at Almeley and Lyonshall. ½ m. rt., the village of **Eardisley**. Here the family of Baskerville was seated from the reign of William I. to 1640. A small portion of their once well-fortified castle remains to the W. of the ch., in-

sulated by a triple moat, in clearing out which helmets and spear-heads have been discovered. The **Church** (restored at the cost of W. Perry Herrick, Esq.) consists of a nave, N. aisle, and low embattled tower, having an Anglo-Norm. font curiously sculptured. Coke, Bishop of Hereford, ejected by the Parliamentarians, died at his paternal seat of **Lower Moor** (Gen. Coke) in this parish, 1646, and was buried in the chancel. $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the church is the **Eardisley oak**, a fine old tree with an immense head, wider than that of the Cowthorpe. The trunk is 18 ft. high and 30 ft. in girth, and it covers altogether a surface of 324 ft. in circular extent.—*Loudon.*

2 m. N. is **Almeley**, the ch. of which is of the 14th centy. The clerestory windows are large, and contain good Dec. tracery. **Newport House** (the representatives of the late Gurney Pease) was a seat of the Foleys for nearly 2 centuries.

17 m. **Whitney Stat.** On l. **Whitney Court** (T. Dew, Esq.). No vestiges remain of the traditional castle of the Whitneys, a leading family in Herefordshire from before the Crusades to the end of the Civil Wars, wherein Sir Robert Whitney, a devoted Loyalist, sacrificed much of his estate in the service of the King. The Wye is crossed by the rly. and by a wooden bridge, carrying the Hereford and Brecon turnpike.

On l. is **Meerbach Hill**, conspicuous for the bold roughness of its scenery. At its foot is *Middlewood* (Col. Dalmaine).

18 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. rt., between the road and the Wye, are the scanty remains of **Clifford Castle**, the reputed birth-place of Fair Rosamond. The walls cover a natural knoll, isolated by a deep ravine. This fortress is said to have been founded by William Fitz-Osborn, Earl of Hereford and one of

[*S. Wales.*]

the companions of the Conqueror, and was during 2 centuries the baronial residence of the Lords de Clifford, and afterwards of the Giffards, one of whom married the heiress of Walter Giffard, grandson of Walter de Clifford, father of Fair Rosamond. Of this family was Anne, Countess of Dorset, Pembroke, and Montgomery, the very determined lady who had been "bullied by an usurper and neglected by a sovereign," but who would not submit to be "dictated to by a subject." The present ruins, however, show no trace of Norman work, and are probably not earlier than the reign of Hen. III. **Clifford Church** has a large and not ill-proportioned tower, which has a rather modern aspect. The rest of the building is modern Norm.; the roofs, however, have been preserved; that of the nave being barrel-ribbed, and filled up with plaster, and that of the chancel open work and pretty good. The threshold of the N. door is a good coffin-lid, with a carved cross in a circle. In the chancel is a very fine boldly-designed and well-executed effigy of an ecclesiastic, full-sized and full-length, robed and tonsured. The church stands almost alone on a hill, three-fourths of a mile from the castle and village.

On the opposite side of the Wye is **Cabalva** (W. S. Broadwood, Esq.). The construction of the rly. here was of a laborious and expensive nature, as it passes between the river and the steep knoll on which stands the castle, the ruins of which may be seen from the carriages.

20 m. On l. is the **Moor**, the seat of J. Stallard Pennoyre, Esq., overhanging which is **Mouse Castle**, an eminence of considerable height. The summit is embraced by an intrenchment 50 yds. in diameter. This small area is defended by an embankment of earth thrown up 4 yds. perpendicularly, and by a deep

fosse, which, towards the E., presents on the inner side a solid wall of natural rock, based by the clearing of the fosse, so as to expose an upright front of stone 8 ft. high, with a gradual descent of 8 ft. more to the bottom of the ditch. The declivity on all sides is very rapid. Although the smallest, this is the strongest camp in the county. The *Moor* is in the parish of Hardwick, at the vicarage attached to which the venerable antiquary of Herefordshire and historian of the Marches, the Rev. John Webb, passed his later years.

21 m. Hay Stat.

The turnpike road from Hereford to Hay, on the S. bank of the Wye, is very interesting and full of quiet beauty.

2 m. rt. is the wooded demesne of **Belmont** (F. R. Wegg Prosser, Esq.), bounded by an imposing length of deep water, a favourite resting-place for the Wye salmon.

Here also is the R. C. **Priory** erected by Mr. Wegg Prosser, from designs by Pugin in Dec. style. The length of the ch. is 113 ft. The tracery of the windows and mouldings is most elaborate, and both exterior and interior of the building are adorned with carvings and various devices. A monastery, with accommodation for 40 Benedictine monks, is connected with the ch. by a cloister 40 ft. long. Its library contains the valuable MS. collections for a history of Herefordshire of the late R. B. Phillips of Longworth, as also a valuable series of topographical works.

3½ m. rt. **Clethonger Ch.**, contains in the Aubrey Chapel recumbent effigies in armour of Sir W. Pembroke, K.G., and one of a female; also tablets for Herbert Aubrey, 1671, and others. Belmont was erected in place of the old mansion

of the Aubreys, burnt towards the close of last century.

4½ m. **Cagebrook** (Mrs. Yorke) and **Lower Eaton** (J. Pulley, Esq.).

On rt. is **Eaton Bishop**, the ch. of which has some Norm. and Dec. work, and a stained-glass E. window, supposed to have been originally in the chapel at Sugwas in the 15th centy. Bishop Cantilupe's name is traditionally associated with the chapel and manor of Eaton Bishop.

In this parish is a large British **camp**, enclosing an extent of 30 acres, fortified with single works, except towards the S.W. It appears to have been only a temporary station. The Roman road, called **Stone Street**, runs, in good preservation, between the churches of Madley and Eaton Bishop.

6½ m. is **Madley**, an extensive parish, with a very fine church, principally of Dec. character, but containing some late Norm. features and a Norm. font: it has a polygonal apse, under which is a fine octagonal crypt, with a central shaft and good groining. The windows are mostly of 2 lights, showing the first and middle Pointed styles much intermixed; but one, at the E. end of a small chapel, is a large one of 5 lights. At the W. end is an embattled E. E. tower, surmounted by a high turret, called by the inhabitants "Jacob's Chair." In the chancel are remains of stalls, with desks and miserere seats, and on the rt. of the altar are sedilia of Decorated character, ornamented with the ball-flower. The font is a remarkable specimen, and claims a rank of earlier date than the church: it is hollowed out of a large block of pudding-stone, resembling in size and form that at Kilpeck, though having one circular column. The bells were brought in 1538 from the dissolved abbey of Dore.

9½ m. **Tibberton Court** (R. H. Lee Warner), a large brick-built mansion on an elevated site, once a seat of the Brydges family. The library contains a complete collection of the Elzevir classics.

11 m. is the village of **Blackmere**.

12 m. rt. **Moccas Court** (Rev. Sir Geo. Cornewall, Bart.), which stands on an easy ascent near the river. The parish church is a curious structure, with an eastern apse which retains its semi-dome vaulting, and considered to be the oldest in the county. On an eminence adjoining the park is a large and peculiar kind of British **cromlech**, called King Arthur's Table. The incumbent stone, now broken in the middle, is elliptical in form, 18 ft. in length, 9 ft. broad, and in thickness 2 ft. It was originally supported by 11 upright stones, some of which are fallen; other stones are scattered round, and there is also a small mound near it. Arthur's Table is easily approached by the pedestrian from the village of Bredwardine; and in a field to the l., as he ascends, he may tarry to inspect a mistletoe oak.

14 m. the Wye is crossed by a bridge at **Bredwardine**, the Norm. *Ch.* of which parish has been enlarged and much altered. A curious Norm. font, and 2 mounted figures, remain in tolerable preservation. On the S. side a good Dec. window has been inserted. The remains of the castle, which stood near the ch., and adjoining the vicarage, are reduced to the slopes of the outer defence.

The road now winds at the foot of Meerbach Hill.

19 m. **Hardwick**, where a ch. was built, mainly through the instrumentality of J. Stallard Pennoyre, Esq., whose seat, the *Moor*, is passed on rt.

21 m. ♂ **Hay**, so called from the Norman-French "*haier*," to enclose, is a small quiet town, picturesquely situated on the rt. bank of the Wye, in a rich agricultural district. The remains of the **Castle** "*the which*," according to Leland, "*hath been some time right stately*," are represented by a Gothic gateway and wall, placed on an eminence overhanging the town. It was built in the time of Henry II., and destroyed in the border wars by Glyn-dwr in 1403. On its site now stands an ivy-covered manor-house, with gables and tall chimneys, the residence of the Rev. W. L. Bevan. The **Church**, a rather plain building, restored in 1867, is romantically situated on the bank of the river at the W. end of the town, separated by a deep ravine from a mound and square platform, the remains of an ancient fortification. Amongst the Communion plate is an ancient silver chalice dedicated to "*our Lady Paris of the Haier*."

The *scenery* in the neighbourhood of Hay is very beautiful, particularly on the S., where the Black Mountains end in an escarpment of great height, at the foot of which are some pretty dingles, such as **Cusop**, which is well worthy the attention of the pedestrian, and was the favourite abode of a water-colour painter, Lindsey. It is about 11 m. from Hay over the mountain to Llanthony Abbey (Rte. 4). The landscape to the S.W. is worthily closed by the towering summits of the Breconshire Beacons.

The country on leaving Hay is very charming, and the prospect on the l. affords an imposing view of the lofty Hatterell range, or Black Mountains, rising 2000 ft. above the level of the sea, and sweeping for many miles above a broken wooded foreground.

On the rt., on the Radnorshire side of the river, is **Clyro Court**, the

seat of Walter M. Baskerville, Esq.; and on l. **Oakfield** (— Edye, Esq.).

24 m. **Glasbury Stat.**, a pretty English-looking village, with a modern Norm. church in good taste. Radnorshire and Breconshire are here connected by a wooden bridge across the Wye, a moiety of which is kept in repair by each county.

On the high ground above the Wye on rt. is **Maeslough Castle**, the modern mansion of Walter de Winton, Esq. Gilpin described the situation on which the present house stands as "the finest of its kind in Wales."

1 m. to the l., on a cross-road from Hay to Talgarth, is **Tregoyd**, the seat of Viscount Hereford, and near it **Gwernyfed** (Col. Wood), an ancient Elizabethan mansion, where Charles I. was entertained by Sir Henry Williams on the 6th of Aug., 1645, on his way from Brecon into Radnorshire. The courtyard is flanked by 2 round towers. In this neighbourhood is also *Llanthomas*, the seat of the Rev. W. Jones Thomas.

26 m. ♂ **THREE COCKS JUNCT.**, whence the tourist proceeds by Mid-Wales Rly. to Builth and Aberystwyth (Rte. 17). Above the inn and in the grounds of Gwernyfed are intrenchments of British construction, called the *Gaer*.

The rly. to Brecon passes 27½ m. on l., **Porthhaml**, containing a fine embattled entrance-tower.

On rt. is the small village of **Bronllys**, the **Castle** of which is remarkable for its round tower, supposed by some to be fabulously ancient and built by the Phœnicians, but in reality only a keep of the 13th centy., erected after the model of the round tower of Pembroke Castle. It consists of 4 stages, the lowest of which was approached by a trap-door from the first floor. The walls

are 10 ft. thick near the base, and decrease to 8 ft. The diameter of the chambers is 18 ft. The proprietor (Mr. W. L. Banks, F.S.A.), has given a very lucid account of the castle, of which there are but few remains except the tower, in the 'Arch. Cambr.' for 1856. At Bronllys, about 1450 A.D., is said to have flourished one Bedo Bronllys, a bard who collected the poems of his predecessor, Davydd ap Gwilym. The church possesses some small Norm. windows and a detached campanile.

28½ m. l., nestling under the shadow of the Black Mountains, is ♂ **Talgarth Stat.**, a borough by prescription, without privilege, jurisdiction, or municipal officers, but placed in an interesting vicinity. The **Church**, consisting of 2 aisles, is superior to most in the country; the fine square tower contains 6 bells, and solidity rather than elegance prevails. Till recently, after an odd fashion hereabouts, the upper half of the tower was white-washed.

About 3 m. to the S.E. is **Pencader**, or the Cradle Mountain, 2545 ft. above the level of the sea. It may be ascended by following a lane from Talgarth up the dingle to Pen-twyn and Cwm-y-nant, which is of rare beauty. Or the route may be reversed. From Talgarth a walk of 3 m. will bring the tourist to Dinas Castle (Rte. 12), whence a pass leads into the Vale of Usk to Crickhowel, 9 m. Talgarth with Dinas commanded of old the mountain pass to Crickhowel and the E. of the Vale of Usk. The parish of Talgarth, once the seat of the ancient family of Gunter, includes, 1 m. on the Llangorse road, **Trebecca House**, founded in 1752 by Howel Harris, a disciple of Whitfield, for Calvinistic Dissenters, who lived in common, on a

system similar to that of the Moravians. The community at one time numbered 150 persons, who cultivated land and worked at various trades; but, although raised by the untiring zeal of the founder, who devised estates to trustees for the continuance of the system, few persons can be induced "to be happy by a certain regulation, to forego the pursuit of their own objects after their own manner, at their own peril, and for their own advantage." Selina, Countess Dowager of Huntingdon, resided at Treveccaisaf, and made **Tredustan Court** an establishment for teachers of the Whitfield Methodist Connexion.

31 m. **Trefeinon** Stat., close to which is the primitive little ch. of **Llandeivailog Tr'er graig**.

33½ m. **TAL-Y-LLYN** JUNCT. with the Dowlais and Newport line. (Rte. 9).

On l. is **Llyn Safaddan**, or Llangorse Pool (Rte. 12), the Clamosum of Giraldus, 'Itin. Cambr.' i. 2, about 5 m. in circumference. It was frequented by the monks of Llanthony, who had leave of fishing, the lake abounding in perch, trout, eels, and pike, the latter sometimes attaining the size of 30 or 40 lbs.

Passing through a tunnel, a fine view is obtained, on l. of the Usk, Llanhamlach Ch., and Peterstone, with the distant Beacons—one of the finest rly. views in S. Wales.

37 m. **Brecon** (Rte. 12).

ROUTE 17.

HEREFORD TO ABERYSTWYTH, BY
THREE COCKS, BUILT, RHAYADER, AND LLANIDLOES.

(*Mid-Wales Railway.*)

From Hereford to **3 THREE COCKS** JUNCT., 26 m. The Mid-Wales Rly., which commences at this point, places Aberystwyth in close and intimate communication with all South Wales and South-western parts, passing for nearly its whole course through some of the most picturesque districts in the Principality.

After leaving the junction, the line soon crosses the Wye to the E. or l. bank, and keeps close to it for many miles, obtaining the most charming river views imaginable.

28½ m. **Boughrood** Stat. From Boughrood Stat. the easiest rte. is taken for **Pains Castle**, which, according to the 'Annales Cambriæ' (p. 78), was a noble castle built of stone and mortar, apparently on the remains of a former and less substantial fortress in the reign of Henry III. The mound and earthworks remain, and show tokens of the former strength of the position. After leaving the stat., pass Boughrood Ch., turn off at a blacksmith's shop, and ascend the hill as far as Penrhos Farm. Thence follow the road through the new enclosures, and the track to the W. of the clump of trees on the Begwns. Another rte. is from Glasbury, turning off at Woodlands, and so by the back of Maeslough. Pains Castle seems to have been frequently be-

sieged, both by the Welsh and the Marchers.

Boughrood Castle (Rev. Hugh Bold) is a square modern house near the site of an ancient fortress. On the opposite bank are **Llyswen**, where formerly a palace of the Welsh princes existed, and **Llangoed Castle** (Sir J. R. Bailey, Bart.), a most attractive spot, from the magnitude and position of its fine woods, which extend for $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. sloping down to the Wye.

$32\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Erwood Stat.** At the village, which is on the opposite bank, is "a small hostelry, where a pedestrian tourist who can rough it, may sometimes sleep." Anglers are apt to congregate here and at Aberedw.

On an inconsiderable elevation to the rt., called **Garth Hill**, are the remains of a British camp.

The tourist should get out at Erwood, and visit the

Craig Pwll Ddu, or the Rock of the Black Pit, about 1 m. from the station.

"The little river Bachwy has worn a very deep and gloomy channel in its descent from the mountains. Savage rocks, slightly fringed with brushwood, impend over the river, and one of vast size projects so abruptly across the glen, as apparently to close it. Here stood the castle of the Black Rock, of which little else than the name remains, but the surrounding peasants devoutly believe that it is the favourite resort of the fairies. Curious legends are circulated in this secluded neighbourhood. According to tradition, one of the ancient Welsh princes kept prisoners in a castle on the summit of the rock, from whence they were not unfrequently hurled into the tremendous pool below. There is a difficult passage round the foot of the Black Rock to a singular waterfall about 40 ft. high, surrounded by accessories which very greatly heighten its grandeur. You feel astonished, but hardly pleased, in this wild and gloomy hol-

low, and value sunshine when you leave its agitated caldron far below. There is a smaller waterfall lower down."—*Cliffe.*

In the ch.-yard of **Llanstephan**, 1 m. to the l., are some magnificent yew-trees, one of which is 22 ft. in girth. Between Boughrood Stat. and Llanstephan is a long stretch of the river, where it runs along the line of a fault connected with the upheaval that caused the contorted rocks of Craig Pwll Dhu, and whence Sir R. Murchison gained his first idea of what grew into his Silurian system.

$36\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Aberedw Stat.** Near which the Edw falls into the Wye. Here was the hunting-seat of Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, the last native Prince of Wales. The site of a defensive position (wood or stone), much hidden by foliage, occupies the summit of a mound, partly natural, at the entrance of the highly picturesque glen of the Edw. Lower down are faint vestiges of a castle, said to have been built by Ralph de Baskerville. The church stands on an eminence above the castle, round which the Edw flows, and opposite to a lofty range of rocks partially concealed by trees. An excavation in the rock retains the name of "Llewelyn's Cave." The local legend is that he chose this cave for his hiding-place; but the usually received story that he marched to Aberedw to meet the English, and being surprised by superior forces of the enemy, whom the men of Aberedw had treacherously acquainted with his movements, retreated in the opposite direction towards Builth, militates against this story. The unfortunate prince was killed in 1282, in a dingle 3 m. N. of Builth, by a party of Herefordshire men, and buried at Cwm Bedd Llewelyn on the Yrfon (Rte. 19), where a farmhouse is still called Cefn-y-Bedd, i.e. "the Ridge of the Grave."

Between Aberedw and Builth the

stream of the Dihonw flows in on the opposite side.

40 m. **Builth Wells** Stat.

♂ **Builth**, the ancient Bullæum, is a picturesque little town situated on the Wye, across which a bridge of 6 arches connects the counties of Brecon and Radnor. The town consists of 2 parallel streets, forming irregular terraces on the side of a steep declivity. The only remains of the **Castle** are a fragment of the N. wall, of unusual thickness; it was destroyed by a fire, together with a large portion of the old town, in 1692.

The castle came by marriage with the daughter and heiress of Milo Fitzwalter, Earl of Hereford, to Philip de Braose, whose grandson, Reginald, enlarged and strengthened it against the Welsh. It remained in possession of the Braose family for some time, but in 1260 Sir Roger Mortimer was castellan for the Crown. The gallant Llewelyn wrested it from Mortimer and held it until his death, which the refusal of "the traitors of Builth" to admit him into his own castle greatly accelerated. The loss of the fortress was considered of such importance that Mortimer was arraigned for it, but, after a tediously protracted trial, was honourably acquitted. Scarce a trace remains of the Norman fortress that once surmounted earthworks which still tell of pre-Norman occupation, and which resemble, as Mr. G. T. Clark has observed, those at Wigmore, Richard's Castle, and elsewhere. Its site is on the E. edge of the town, about 100 yards from the river. It has a considerable view to the N., and is within an easy ride of Pain's Castle and other fortresses of the middle Wye and Usk. It stands on a bank falling steeply towards the north of the river, and, though higher on all sides than the adjacent ground, is

approached by an easy ascent from the S., on which side was its entrance. The castle occupied a nearly circular plot of ground, being about 180 yds. N. and S. by 190 E. and W.—(*G. T. C.*, 'Arch. Cambr.,' vol. iv., 4th series.)

The air of this locality is considered very salubrious; and the mineral springs at **Park Wells**, about a mile from the town, attract, during the season, many visitors, for whose accommodation a Pump-room has been erected. The waters flow from three springs, saline, chalybeate, and sulphureous, said to be perfectly distinct, though originating within a few feet of each other. The ch., which is in process of restoration, is comparatively modern, but has an ancient tower, with a vaulted stone roof, and which may have been used for defensive purposes. In it is an effigy of John Lloyd of Towyn, gentleman of the Body-Guard to Queen Elizabeth, and son of Thomas Lloyd, Lord-Lieutenant of Brecknockshire. He is stated on his tablet to have been the first Sheriff and Justice of the Peace that ever dwelt in this lordship after the division of Wales into shire-bounds. The hands of the effigy are turned downwards, not clasped erect on the breast as in earlier examples. Builth is a very popular *fishing* station for anglers; trout and salmon being found in great abundance in the Wye and Yrfon; the Chweffru, Edw, and Dihonw, are also good fishing streams. The salmon-fishing furnishes excellent sport in April and May.

There are some very pretty seats in the neighbourhood. On the wooded hill to the E. are **Wellfield** (E. D. Thomas, Esq.) and **Pencerrig House**, the property of Miss Thomas, of Llwynmadoc. Both estates abound in fine timber. The former has several well-known rare conifers; the latter some magnificent

oaks. In the grounds of the latter is a picturesque lake. Above Builth, on the banks of the Wye, is **Glanwye**, the charming seat of Lady Bailey.

There are also beautiful excursions to

Llandewi-r-'cwm, 2 m. S., and to **Cefn-y-bedd**, between the Yrfon and Chwefru rivers (Rte. 19).

From **Builth Road Stat.** (2 m. to the N.) northwards to Craven Arms, Llandrindod; and southwards to Llandovery, Llandeilo, Caermarthen, and Swansea.

From Builth the line (passing, rt., **Llanelwedd Ch.**, and **Llanelwedd Hall** (H. Gwynne Howell, Esq.)), continues along the bank of the Wye to, 42 m., **LLECHRYD**, or **BUILTH ROAD JUNCT.**, where the Central Wales Rly. crosses the Mid Wales in its course from Craven Arms to Caermarthen. Llechrhyd is remarkable for a supposed Roman camp, within a much larger circular British intrenchment. Traces of the original trackway still exist. The Roman work—earth-works which may have served as a halting-place between Bannium and the nearest stat. to the N.—has been considerably interfered with by the construction of the rly. and its platform.

Glanwye (Lady Bailey). The route here becomes one of the most romantic in S. Wales, traversing an extremely picturesque country, in which fine woods, precipitous mountains, and a river ever changing in its aspect, are the principal elements.

Crossing the *Ithon*, which flows from the Montgomeryshire hills to join the Wye at this spot, the rly. reaches 45 m., **Newbridge on Wye Stat.**, where a bridge crosses the river at *Llysadinam Hall*, the seat of the Rev. H. Venables. At 43 m. on the rt. the high peak of *Doleran*

Hill overhangs the river, which, from this spot to its very source, is environed by mountains almost from the water's edge. The rly. runs on a terrace above the Wye to, 49 m., **Doldowlod Stat.** *Doldowlod* is the seat of J. W. Gibson Watt, Esq., whose ancestor, James Watt, the famous engineer, purchased the property at the beginning of this centy. The pedestrian is recommended to get out at this stat. and walk the 5 m. to Rhayader, by the bank of the river.

50 m. 1. **Pen-lan-oleu** (the Rev. Nelson Lingen), situated at the foot of the huge mass of Rhiw Gwraidd.

$\frac{1}{2}$ m. further on the opposite bank, "the small village and tiny ch. (restored in 1874) of **Llanwrthwl** look out from a mountain nest of wood and heather upon the broad river below, whose course runs through woods, only allowing occasional peeps of the opposite towering hills, also belted with avenues and groups of fine trees."—*Roscoe*.

52 m. At **Aberdauddwr** an exquisitely lovely scene presents itself. On rt. the grand woody crag of *Gwa-staden* mountain rises boldly from the Wye, which here receives on its rt. bank the waters of the Elan, after winding round the base of the *Corn Gafallt*. "The scene constantly varies as we view the two vales of the Wye and Elan in different positions, ever lovely, ever new; while on the rt. the huge crags maintain their stern, harsh features, gradually deepening in tone from clearly-seen rocks and heather in the foreground to the dim yet rich purple of the distant peaks." From hence a beautiful road along the N. side of Gwa-staden brings the tourist to the romantic little town of Rhayader.

52 m. $\frac{3}{4}$ **Rhayader Stat.** Its Welsh name, Rhaindr Gwy, signifies "the

ataract of the Wye ;” but the slight fall whence it was derived was nearly destroyed, by widening the channel and removing the rocks in order to build a bridge over the river, in 1780. The town itself, which shares with Presteign, Knighthon, Knucklas, and New Radnor, the privilege of returning the M.P. for Radnorshire Boroughs, although in a situation of great beauty, possesses few objects of interest ; but the tourist and fisherman will reap their reward in exploring the vales of the Wye, the Claerwen, the Elan, and the Marteg.

[A very beautiful excursion may be taken to **Cwm Elan**, 5 m., passing by the little church of **Llansaint-fread Cwmddaudwr**, in which parish are tumuli and a barrow worth visiting, and at 1 m. from thence, a road to the right, leading to **Rhydoldog**, the seat of General Sladen, R.H.A., the situation of which commands a view of great beauty and extent in the direction of Builth. Crossing the summit of **Cefn Craig-y-Foel**, which Mr. Cliffe thinks is only surpassed by one other mountain in Wales for warmth and beauty of colour, the tourist drops suddenly into the Vale of Elan, opposite the park and mansion of **Cwm Elan** (R. L. Lloyd, Esq.), “the paradise of the district, created, like Hafod, out of bare and cultureless land.” It was originally formed by a Mr. Grove, whose daughter Harriet was Shelley’s early love, and who many years ago purchased 10,000 acres of land, and planted largely. Bowles in his poem of ‘Combe Elian’ thus celebrates the vale :

“Pass the hill,

And through the woody hanging, at whose feet
The tinkling Elian winds, pursue thy way.”

The views higher up the vale are very striking, particularly about a mile from the house, where the river dashes underneath an alpine

bridge. This spot, which overlooks a black and seemingly bottomless pool at the foot of the torrent, is named **Pontrhyllfan**. On returning to Rhayader, the visitor should keep along the banks of the Elan, winding round Craig-y-foel, opposite which the Elan is joined by the **Claerwen**, which rises in the hills between Rhayader and Tregaron. A little above the junction of the two rivers is **Nantgwillt**, the residence of Robert Lewis Lloyd, Esq. ; and sometime in the occupation of Percy Bysshe Shelley, who was visited here by Peacock, the novelist, in 1812. The mountain scenery in the Nantgwillt and Cwm Elan valleys is perhaps the most beautiful and romantic in S. Wales. Still higher are the *lead-mines* of Dalrhiw and Nantycar. From hence a good pedestrian may cross the mountain by the lofty Drygarn, and descend by the vale of the Yrfon to Llanwrtyd Wells. (Rte. 19.)]

Excellent fishing is to be obtained in some of the many lakes in the wild and hilly district of **Ellenith**, which stretches W. from Rhayader to Tregaron, and S. to Llandovery. The trout in these lakes are capricious ; and sometimes a basket of 30 lb. may be obtained, whilst at others the take is nil. The most accessible lakes from Rhayader are—**Llyn Rhyddnant**, **Helygen**, **Cwyngy**, **Cerrig Llwydion Uchaf** and **Isaf**, and **Fyddin**.

From Rhayader the rly. ascends the high ground of **Moel Hywel**, descending into the valley of the Marteg, near the village of St. Harmon.

59 m. **Pant-y-dwr** Stat., where the Marteg flows in from the rt., and the high-road comes point blank upon the railway with a dangerous abruptness. It is a wild country all the way to

63 m. **Tylwch** Stat., where the

valley of the Afon Tylwch is entered near the village of Capel Banhaglog.

66 m. LLANIDLOES JUNCT., with the *Cambrian* System, by which the traveller proceeds to MOAT LANE JUNCT.; thence to Machynlleth and Aberystwyth (Rte. 22). See *Hand-book for N. Wales*.

ROUTE 18.

HEREFORD TO ABERYSTWYTH, BY
KINGTON, RADNOR, AND RHAYADER.

From Hereford to **Kington** the traveller must proceed by the Hereford and Shrewsbury Rly. to LEOMINSTER JUNCT., whence a short branch is given off to Kington.

‡ **Kington** used to be a favourite starting-place for tourists to Aberystwyth, whither a coach ran daily. Though there is now no public conveyance, the route should be travelled for the sake of its exquisite scenery; and, thanks to the S. Wales County Roads Boards, the roads are very fairly good. Kington is a prettily situated little town, surrounded by hills, that immediately on the N. being called **Bradnor Hill**, on the summit of which are the remains of a quadrangular camp commanding a most extensive view. Leland was unable to determine whether this camp was British, Roman, or Saxon, whilst some antiquaries attribute its existence to

the Druids. The **Church**, though much modernised, contains many portions deserving inspection, particularly a fine alabaster tomb in the S. aisle, to the memory of Thomas Vaughan and his wife Ellen of Hergest Court, in the 15th centy. To the S.W. of the ch.-yd. is the old Grammar School with its quaint gables. It was founded by Dame Margaret Hawkins, the widow of the circumnavigator, and daughter of Charles Vaughan of Hergest, sometime lady of the bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth. The first headmaster of this school was Christopher Harvey, M.A., the author of the "Synagogue," often appended to "The Temple" of George Herbert. The building was designed by John Abell, the same who built the ancient market-houses at Hereford, Leominster, and elsewhere. Mrs. Siddons made her first appearance on any stage in a barn-theatre in this town. Her father and mother were the managers; and her brother Stephen Kemble's name appears among the births in the parish register.

1 m. S. is **Hergest Court**, an ancient mansion, situated in a fertile plain on the bank of the river Arrow, for ages the residence of the powerful family of the Vaughans, who were, with their relative Sir David Gam, distinguished for their bravery at Agincourt. The private chapel, a spacious stone building near the house, is now used as a granary. 3 m. N.E. on the road to Presteign is the rural village of **Titley**. The **Court**, situated on rising ground, was rebuilt in 1776. It has an extensive and well-stocked deer-park, and on the demise of Lady Coffin Greenly, 1839, passed to Louisa, wife of Admiral Sir Thomas Hastings, at whose death it came into the possession of Charles William Allen, Esq., who assumed the surname of Greenly. Here was an

ancient priory subordinate to the Abbey of Tyrone in France. On the suppression of alien priories, it was given by Henry V. to Winchester College, and still belongs to that establishment. In this parish is **Eywood**, the paternal estate of Edward Harley, Auditor of the Imprest and brother of the Lord Treasurer, who enlarged the mansion. It is placed in a well-wooded locality, surrounded by an extensive range of pleasure-grounds, containing some good-sized lakes, and was the principal residence of his descendant, Lady Langdale, who by will gave her freehold property to R. D. Harley, Esq., the representative of a distant branch in Shropshire. *Titley* is a *Stat.* on the Leominster and Kingston Rly.

A rly. was opened in 1847 from *Titley*, *viâ* Lyonshall and Almeley, to **Eardisley** *Stat.* on the Hereford and Brecon line (Rte. 16).

[7 m. is **Presteign**, or **Llanandaras**, to all intents and purposes the capital of Radnorshire, and a pleasant little town, situated on the Lugg, which separates it from Herefordshire.

The **Church** consists of nave, chancel, aisles, and a square embattled tower, and contains some tapestry representing the entry of Christ into Jerusalem, a fine stained glass window, a good brass, and some monuments to the neighbouring families. Here too is a leper window, as at Ludlow. As the county town, Presteign possesses a Shire-hall and Jail. In the dining-room of the Judges' lodgings, adjoining the Shire-hall, are portraits of Lord Ormathwaite; Sir Frankland Lewis; his son and successor, Sir G. Cornwall Lewis; Richard Price, Esq., sometime M.P. for Radnor; and the Venables (father and son), between them for 40 years Chairmen of the Radnor Quarter Sessions. To the W. are pleasant walks on an elevated

position, called the **Warden**, the site of the former castle, commanding extremely pretty views of the surrounding country. Many beautiful seats are in the neighbourhood, the principal of which are **Boultibrook**, 1 m. on the Knighton road (Sir Harford Brydges); and **Knill Court** (Sir John Walsham, Bart.), between Presteign and Radnor, which contains in its exquisite grounds the restored ch. of Knill, where Sir Samuel Romilly lies buried. **Offa's Dyke** runs close by, crossing the wooded hills of Herrock and Knill Garraway in its course to Kingston. Between Knill and Presteign is the bold rock of *Nash Scar*.

Wapley Hill Camp, 3 m. to the S.E., is a perfect and interesting British camp, with mounds and ditches fivefold on all sides but the north. Its length is about 572 yards, and its utmost breadth about 330. There is every reason to believe that it was one of the strongholds unsuccessfully held against the Romans by Caractacus.]

The first part of the road from Kingston to Radnor lies through an exceedingly pretty valley bounded by high hills planted with woods, in which larch predominates, and having something of the character of parts of the Black Forest in Germany. At 2½ m. a stone marks the boundary of Herefordshire and Radnorshire, and consequently of England and Wales, after which the turnpike road, turning abruptly to the N., passes, at a little distance on the l.

Old Radnor, or, as it was called, because perched on a rocky height, Pen-y-Craig, or Crûg, with its venerable **Church**, containing a beautiful carved roof and oak screen, an ancient font, some handsome monuments to the family of Lewis of Harpton, and in particular to the late Sir George Cornwall Lewis,

Another curiosity of old Radnor Ch. is the fine example of an organ-case of the liner pattern, of the date of 1605. It has been recently restored through the exertions of Lady Lewis, and fitted with an organ worthy of so perfect a framework. The font is of porphyritic stone, said to be the same as the four stones in the neighbourhood of Harpton; but an inspection of those stones shews them to be unhewn boulders from the volcanic rocks of Hanter or Stanner, a couple of miles to the south. Such boulders would scarcely admit of being dressed even so rudely as is the Old Radnor font. At Old Radnor Charles I. supped and slept at a yeoman's house on the 6th of August, 1645, having come that day from Gwernefyd, near Hay. The hill of Old Radnor, and the three neighbouring heights of Stanner, Hanter, and Worzel, possess high interest for the geologist. They consist of trap or greenstone, resembling the rare hypersthene rock of Coruisk in the isle of Skye.

Soon after passing Old Radnor—which is the site of **Cruker Castle**, visited by Giraldus Cambrensis and Archbishop Baldwin in 1188—**Harpton Court**, the seat of Rev. Sir G. Frankland Lewis, Bart., appears at the extremity of the vista formed by a fine broad double avenue of limes. About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to rt. of the road are four upright stones of great antiquity, not far from a farm-house called the Knap, to the N. of which is a round tree-clad tumulus. The four stones enclose a space of 13 ft., and vary from 6 to 4 ft. in height, and 11 to 15 ft. in girth. It is probable that, as the supports of a large covering stone, their purpose was sepulchral. Passing on rt. **Downton Hall** (Sir E. Cockburn, Bart.), and the Cornewall Lewis Memorial Cross, the traveller arrives at

6 m. **New Radnor**, an instance of a town, once sufficiently important

to have given its name to the county (which was created in the reign of Henry VIII.), having dwindled away to a mere village. The business of the county has been long ago transferred to Presteign, as being more suited from position and importance. "The mount on which the castle stood, and fragments of the walls which surrounded the town, are still to be seen; but the whole was destroyed by Glyndwr in 1401, who at the same time beheaded the garrison of 60 men in the castle yard." — *F. L.* Considerable remains of the Castle were exposed in erecting the Lewis Memorial Cross, and another site had to be chosen. New Radnor gives its name to a group of contributory boroughs, like those of Montgomeryshire, of which the remaining five are Presteign, Knighton, Knucklas, Rhayader, and Cefn-y-llys. The Welsh name of this place, Maes-y-ved, meaning "the imbibing meadow," is derived from the circumstance of the small stream the Somergill, being absorbed in dry weather by the gravelly soil of the Vale of Radnor; but it reappears on reaching a bed of clay.

Giraldus Cambrensis commences at this place his 'Itinerary,' written while he followed in the suite of Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, who in 1188 undertook a mission to preach the Crusades in Wales. The country round New Radnor is exceedingly hilly and wild, many of the principal summits rejoicing in rather curious nomenclature, such as the Fron and the Wimbles to the N. of the town, and Smatcher to the S. The valley again contracts and appears blocked up by a picturesque conical hill, called the Mynd, near which, up a narrow gully on the rt., is situated an interesting cascade, called **Water-break-its-Neck**, descending from a height of 70 ft. This cascade, one of the most celebrated in Wales, is to be found on a rocky hillside about 1 m.

from the turnpike road. Unfortunately the visitors to Water-break-its-Neck more often find the "fountains not playing" than otherwise, as, except after protracted wet weather, there is little force of water. On the turnpike road, near the Forest Inn, a path to the rt. leads to **Tomen Castle**, a single-ditched circular British work, partly artificial and partly natural. From it the pedestrian may find his way to the head of the fall above mentioned. To reach this point of the high-road, however, the traveller must have begun the long ascent of **Radnor Forest**, whose summit is 2163 ft. high, consisting, in spite of its name, of bare open hills, affording pasturage to sheep and horses. The horses, like the sheep, are tended and collected by dogs. "Originally this was a bounded forest; i.e., if any man or beast entered the said forest without leave, the former was to lose a limb and the latter to be forfeited, unless a heavy ransom were paid and other grievous exactions submitted to. This, however, was remedied in the reign of Elizabeth.

9 m. on the slope of a hill in ascending, the little ch. of **Llanfihangel Nant-mellan** is passed, remarkable for the ancient yew-trees by which it is surrounded. At 9½ m. on l. a road branches off to Builth, passing close to the small lake of **Llyn-hilyn**.

On the opposite descent lies **Llandegley**, and near it a strong sulphur spring, much frequented during the summer for drinking and bathing. It is somewhat remarkable that St. Tecla, the patron saint of this ch., has also a well of supposed virtue at Llandegla, in Denbighshire. The ch. is remarkable for its great length—110 ft., including tower and chancel. It has a dilapidated screen and a Norman font. Near the ch. yd. is a singular range of rocks abounding in quartz crystals.

15 m. **§ Penybont**, where the road crosses the Central Wales Rly., is a pleasant village with a suspension bridge over the Ithon. There is a Stat. here of the Central Wales Rly. **Penybont Hall** is the residence of J. Percy Severn, Esq.

[A road to the rt. leads to Knighton and Presteign, over the high ground of Radnor Forest and through the villages of Llanfihangel Rhydythron and Bleddfa, in the ch. of which there is an octagonal font and a good piscina.]

16¾ m. a road branches on the N. to Newtown, and on the S. to Llandrindod and Builth.

17 m. The little river Clywedog is crossed, close to its junction with the Ithon.

19 m. A Roman road runs across the turnpike, at a spot called **Caerfagu**, by many antiquaries supposed to have been the site of the Roman station of Magos, many remains having been found in the vicinity.

20½ on rt. the church of **Nantmel**, and 21 m. on l. is **Llwyn-barried**, the residence of E. Middleton Evans, Esq.

A little to the S. is **Llyn-Gwyn**, a lake about 1 m. in circumference, formerly held in great veneration by pilgrims, who came long distances to visit it. It is said by Malkin to be the only picturesque lake in Radnorshire.

25 m. **§ Rhayader** (Rte. 17), one of the contributory boroughs of Radnor. There is a Stat. here on the Mid-Wales Rly. From Rhayader there are 2 roads to Aberystwyth. The new road, finished in 1834, is 1 m. longer than the old; but, as it avoids many steep ascents and descents, is far preferable, and is the one usually followed by persons travelling post. In the year 1803 a postchaise at Rhayader was the only public conveyance in Rad-

norshire. For 18 m. the road is carried up the l. bank of the Wye, here a mere torrent, descending through a valley bounded by steep and bare hills. Cultivation gradually diminishes as the traveller mounts higher. The road is supported for the most part of the way on a terrace over the shoulders of the hills; at times descending to the margin of the river, at others winding along at a height of 100 ft. above it, and in many places bounded by an almost precipitous descent.

28 m. on rt. the little river **Marteg**, after passing by St. Harmon's, joins the Wye, which at this point is singularly picturesque, becoming at the **Nannerth** rocks "narrower and more rocky; being, in fact, a chasm through which the confined waters roar and struggle along in loud chiding anger."

29 m., between the road and river, is **Glangwy**, the pretty little villa of F. Hoxton, Esq.

35 m. **Llangurig**, a small village in a lovely situation. Here the road to the rt. branches off to Llanidloes, 5 m.

40 m. we take leave of the Wye, crossing it, but still ascending by the course of the Afon Tarenig, its tributary, until, at a place called *Steddfa Gurig*, the narrow ridge forming the summit-level is crossed. This, or Dyffryn Castell, is the best point from which to ascend the enormous mass of **Plinlymmon**, 2463 ft. above the level of the sea. It rises from the midst of a dreary waste, encompassed by bogs and morasses; and its top, distant 10 m. from Llangurig and 12 m. from Llanidloes, will scarce repay the toil of an ascent, which on no account should be attempted without a guide. The mountain of Plinlymmon is more properly 3 mountains, which may be considered as the centre of a large group, spreading

into subordinate chains. Gray's "Huge Plinlimmon bows his snow-capped head" will not strike the traveller as a very appropriate description.

It is famous for the 5 rivers which burst from its flanks: the **Dulas**; the **Rheidol**, springing from a lake on the summit, called Lygad Rheidol, or the Eye of the Rheidol, and joining the sea at Aberystwyth; the **Llyfnant**, a tributary of the Dovey; the **Wye** (Gwy, in Welsh, meaning water), issuing from two copious springs on the S.E. side of the mountain; and the **Severn**—second of British floods—which has its source on the N.W. descent of the mountain, not 2 m. apart from the head of the Wye, near a lake called Llyn Bugeillyn. It rushes down through gaps in the slate rock, a mere mountain-torrent, to Llanidloes, and thus far is called by the Welsh, Hafren. In the fastnesses of Plinlymmon, Owain Glyndwr took his stand in 1401, at the outset of his career, with a handful of determined followers; and, issuing hence, spread havoc along the English borders, which he assaulted in various inroads.

"Three times hath Henry Bolingbroke made
head
Against my power: thrice from the banks
of Wye
And sandy-bottom'd Severn have I sent
him
Bootless home, and weatherbeaten back."
Shakespeare.

The view from the summit, if the weather be clear, is very extensive; embracing Cader Idris and the Snowdon chain on the N., the Breidden hills on the N.E., and Cardigan Bay to the W.

At *Steddfa Gurig* the traveller enters a different valley (whose waters flow in an opposite direction to those of the Wye), bounded by mountains whose rugged outline proclaims them to be composed of

slate. Every now and then the appearance of a solitary building, with its fast-driving waterwheel and heaps of dirty refuse, proclaims that lead abounds, and that this is the district of mining adventurers.

46 m. from **Castell Dyffryn**, where there is a solitary and sorry post-house, a road to the l. strikes off to **Parson's Bridge**, and the **Devil's Bridge**, 3 m.

48 m. **Pont Erwyd**. It is worth while to stop and look at the falls of the Castell and Rheidol, which unite in a wild rocky gorge close to the river and the road, but at a considerable depth below them.

About 50 yds. before reaching the river, a rough cross-road strikes over the hill, and in about 1 m. falls into the old post-road to the Devil's Bridge at Yspytty Cynfyn. For more than 3 m. from Pont Erwyd the road ascends, bare moor and hills surrounding it on every side; but on arriving at the summit of Cefn Brwno a rapid descent takes place all the way to Aberystwyth. From here magnificent views are to be obtained over Cardigan Bay, particularly if the visitor happens to arrive at sunset.

53 m. on l. are the **Coginau** lead-mines, one of the most extensive in Cardiganshire, and which, as well as the Lisburne mines in Cwm Ystwyth, are the most available and the best worth the inspection of the visitor. The appearance of the numerous large wheels, situated one above the other at different levels—the sombre grey hue of the jagged hills—the long, low sorting-houses, and the noise of the stamping-machines,—all combine to throw a mysterious effect over the scene.

At the village of **Capel Bangor** the road joins company with the Rheidol, forming, for the rest of the way, an agreeable feature in the

landscape, which it enlivens with its sinuous windings.

59 m. the village of **Llanbadarn Fawr** is passed, famous for the Ch. of St. Padarn or Paternus, a friend of St. David and St. Teilo, and a saint of great renown, who founded a monastery here in the time of the holy Dubritus. It is an ancient cruciform structure of about the 12th centy., chiefly remarkable for its massive tower, of later date than the rest of the Ch., rising from the centre and supported by 4 massive piers. It also contains a number of lancet-shaped windows, with chamfered edges, which contribute much to the air of solidity and strength. There is a good doorway of the 12th centy., forming the entrance into the S. side of the nave. In the interior of the ch. are monuments to the families of Nanteos and Gogerddan. In the chancel is buried Lewis Morris, of Penbryn, in this county, a celebrated Welsh bard and antiquary of the last centy., and ancestor of the living and more widely known poet, his namesake. Llanbadarn was visited by Archbishop Baldwin and Giraldus Cambrensis in 1188, when, as the latter tells us, the monastery had a lay abbot, an evil custom of that period in Wales and Ireland. In the churchyard are some very ancient sculptured stone crosses.

60 m. **Aberystwyth** (Rte. 22).

The old road from Rhayader to Aberystwyth is shorter by 1 m., but considerably more hilly and not so good as the other. Crossing the Wye, on the rt. is **Dderw** (T. C. Prickard, Esq.), the scene of an atrocious murder in Henry VIII.'s time, when a party of Cardiganshire banditti lay in wait for the judge who was coming to the assizes, and shot him through the heart. The assizes were consequently removed to Radnor and Presteign.

2 m. on l. **Llyn Gwyn**, a lake of considerable size, surrounded on every side by high hills. The road now ascends the steep hill of **Penrhi-wen** and about 6 m. descends again into the vale of the **Elan**, whose l. bank it follows almost to its very source, afterwards crossing the watershed and joining the valley of the **Ystwyth**, in which, at 14 m., are the celebrated lead-mines of **Cwm Ystwyth**, one of the earliest worked and most profitable in Cardiganshire. Large fortunes have been made from them and other lead-mines in the district. From the mine named **Cwm Symlog**, Sir Hugh Myddelton drew 2000*l.* a month, and acquired the vast wealth which he expended so unprofitably to himself, and so much to the benefit of others, in forming the **New River** to supply **London** with water.

A handsome stone bridge carries the road over the **Ystwyth** to **Pentre Brunant** from whence it is 4 m. to the **Devil's Bridge**.

ROUTE 19.

**Craven Arms to Caermarthen,
by Llandrindod, Llandovery,
and Llandeilo.**

(*Central Wales Railway.*)

This great trunk rly. leaves **Craven Arms Junct.** on the **Shrewsbury and Hereford Rly.**, and branches off to the S.W., passing
3 m. **Broome Stat.**

5½ m. **Hopton Heath Stat.**, near which is **Hopton Castle**, a small, well-proportioned tower, having mouldings of the 14th centy. The present structure must have replaced one given by **Henry II.** to **Walter de Clifford**. The ch. of **Hopton** was originally a daughter ch. of **Clun**.

8½ m. **Bucknell Stat.** **Bucknell** is twice mentioned in 'Domesday Book.' Before 1176 its lord had given the advowson of the ch., which is a mixture of Norman and Early English, to the Abbey of **Wigmore**. Overlooking it is the wooded eminence of **Coxwall Knoll**, considered by some to be the locale of the last battle of **Caractacus** with the Romans under **Ostorius**, but clearly lacking any higher ground to which the Britons could have retreated, as **Tacitus** says they did. Neither is there any vestige of stone defences.

Passing l. **Stanage Park** (S. Rogers, Esq.), and on rt. **Stow Hill**, and the **Holloway Rocks**, the tourist reaches
12½ m. **Knighton Stat.**

3 **Knighton**, anciently called **Tref-y-clawdd**, or the Town on the Dyke, is pleasantly situated on rising ground overlooking the rt. bank of the **Teme**, which flows between the counties **Radnor** and **Salop**. The only antiquities in the town, which is clean and well built, are an old mansion, once occupied by the **Brydges** family, and another at the E. end, of the time of **James I.** The principal object of interest, however, is **Offa's Dyke**, which passes through the town.

The staple of **Knighton** is its woollen cloth-mills, which have now passed into the hands of a company.

The neighbourhood of **Knighton** abounds in military remains of past ages, particularly **Caer Caradoc**, about 3 m. to the N., said, like **Coxwall Knoll**, to have been defended by **Caractacus** against the Romans.

under Ostorius. Here, however, there is neither the "amnis vado incerto" of Tacitus, nor yet the higher mountains, for the Britons to fall back upon. It is, however, a fine camp, nearly circular, triply defended towards the W., on which side it is most accessible, and having two lines of defence on the E. It has entrances on E. and W., and commands a fine outlook. It is approached from the road to Clun by a footpath on the rt. over two or three enclosures.

The line now runs up the valley of the Teme, passing *Craig Donna*, a picturesque rock, originally tenanted in the 7th centy. by an anchorite, to

15 m. **Knucklas Stat.** On rt. 2 m. is **Llanfair Waterdine**, which contains some inscribed stones.

The rly. now quits the valley of the Teme, and crosses high ground to

19 m. **Llangynllo Stat.** On l. 3 m. is the old manor-house of *Monachty*, of the date of Queen Elizabeth.

1½ m. beyond, on the Presteign road, is **Pilleth**, the scene of a battle between Glyndwr and the English under Sir Edmund Mortimer, who, as Shakespeare described him in speaking of this battle,

"In single opposition, hand to hand,
Did confound the best part of an hour
In changing hardiment with great Glendower."

Here is also an Elizabethan house. There is a good Dec. church in this village.

Llanbister Road Stat.

On the rt., about 8 m. from Knighton, and approached by the Llanbister Road, is **Castle Cwm Aran**, an oblong British camp, with stiff trenches on all sides but one, which overlooks the Aran and is very precipitous. It was after-
[S. Wales.]

wards converted into a mediæval stronghold. A mile further to the W. is **Castle Bank**, a circular camp of 12 acres, and further W. a hill-fort called the *Gaer*, which is a rectangular oblong camp of British type, commanding the narrow valley of the Ithon, and supposed by Dean Merivale to be the scene of the last battle of Caractacus. Tourists will probably weary of the numberless competing sites, the more so if they discover that the Breidden Hills near Welshpool best fulfil the requirements of Tacitus. The ch. at Llanbister is a fine sample of the mother-ch. of a district, with a buttressed tower to the E., surmounted by a wooden belfry. It is said to have been enriched by spoils of Abbey Cwm Hir. The S. window of the chancel is of the 14th centy. The length of nave and chancel is 90 ft.

25½ m. **Dolau Stat.** The village of **Llanfihangel Rhyd Ithon** is on l. Soon after, the line joins the valley of the Ithon, and runs down to

28½ m. ♂ **Penybont Stat.**, close to which is **Penybont Hall** (J.P. Severn, Esq.). Here is a suspension bridge over the Ithon. 2 m. rt. across the Ithon is **Llanbadarn Fawr Church**. See Rte. 19.

32 m. ♂ **Llandrindod Wells Stat.** There are also several first-class lodging-houses. The mineral waters of Llandrindod have been known to possess efficacious power ever since 1696, and as long ago as 1749 a large hotel was opened by a Mr. Grosvenor, termed Llandrindod Hall, an establishment which obtained an extensive reputation, but ultimately became the resort of such questionable characters, that it was pulled down. Nothing, however, has been able to destroy the health-restoring influences of the place; its situation on a wide, elevated common,

the efficacy of its mineral springs, and the comparative freedom from the usual watering-place dissipation, all combine to make it much sought after by the valetudinarian. The springs, all near each other, the first in the neighbourhood of the Rock, and the second and third in the grounds of the Pump-house, are three in number, and are respectively chalybeate, saline, and sulphureous; they are considered to be especially useful in scrofulous and cutaneous diseases. Great improvements have been made at Llandrindod through the indefatigable energy of Mr. R. Dansey Green Price, and the place is one of increasing resort. The sole drawback must needs be the short season, and the severity of the cold at other times of the year. The old ch., which has been supplemented by a large and modern ch., near the Pump-house, from designs by Butterfield, and built by voluntary subscriptions of visitors and neighbours, to the rt. of the road, is some little distance from the Pump-house, and is well placed on the spur of a hill, overlooking the plain, which is watered by the Wye, the Ithon, and the Yrfon.

Near it is a lead-mine, supposed to have been worked by the Romans; indeed the number of intrenchments and tumuli scattered over the common and in the vicinity prove that it was a station of some importance.

About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the N.E. is **Cefn-Llys Church**, placed at the bottom of a deep valley, a steep hill rising directly above it from the lovely banks of the Ithon. On its summit formerly stood Cefn-Llys Castle, which was built by Ralph Mortimer in 1242, and fell into the possession of the Crown in Edward IV.'s reign. It is said by Camden to have been in his day a castle in ruins.

5 m. E. of Llandrindod are the vestiges of **Maud's Castle**, near Llansaintfread, a castle so called

after Maud de St. Valeri, wife of William de Braose; erected ciro. 1216 A.D.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. across the Ithon, is **Llan-yre**, situated on a Roman road which ran from Caerfagu, between Rhayader and Knighton, probably to Builth (Bullæum).

[A beautiful excursion can be made of 9 m. through Llanbadarn Fawr, and up the lovely valley of the Clywedog to the ruins of **Abbey Cwm Hir**, or the Abbey of the Long Dingle.

The **Abbey**, according to Leland, was founded in 1143 by "Cadwathelon ap Madok for lx monkes" of the Cistercian order, and was dedicated to St. Mary. Cadwallon is said to have borrowed his staff of monks from the Abbey of Whitland, in Pembrokeshire, and to have designed to render his Abbey in Meleth equal in dimensions to those of greater kingdoms. In 1231 Henry II. marched his army into the country to punish Prince Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, who had committed depredations on the monks. A portion of the army having been lost through the treacherous guidance of one of the monks, the king was much enraged, and would have burnt the abbey, which was however saved by the payment of 300 marks. It was finally destroyed in 1401 by Owain Glyndwr in one of his predatory excursions. After falling into various hands, it became the property of Sir Wm. Fowler in 1680, concerning whom the following doggrel was current:—

"There is neither a park nor a deer
To be seen in all Radnorshire,
Nor a man with five hundred a year
Save Fowler of Abbey Cwm Hir."

The site of the ancient abbey was cleared out in 1827, showing the dimensions of the nave to have been 242 ft., and verifying the statement of the old antiquary "that no church

n Wales is scene of such length, as the foundation of the walles then begun doth show." It is said that only Durham, York, and Winchester could boast a greater length. The rich 13th-centy. arches in Llanidloes ch. are said to have been brought hence; indeed, this is the current account in Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire of any architectural or decorative work out of perfect keeping with the commonplace surroundings in other churches. Nothing but a few fragments remain of the ancient building, the tones of which were to a large extent incorporated in 1816 with the mansion close by, now the residence of G. H. Phillips, Esq. The site of the Abbot's apartments, of the conventual buildings, and of the fish-ponds which supplied the monks, is still visible, as are also portions of earthworks which crossed the valley for its defence at equal distances above and below, and enclosed a space of about 10 acres, which doubtless possessed the right of sanctuary.

A Roman road runs by the Abbey to the head of the dingle of the Glywedog, from whence it crosses into the valley of the Marteg by a pass called *Bwlch-y-sarnau*. Southwards it communicated with the Roman station of Caerfagu, while on the N. it led to Caersws, thus connecting the Silures and the Ordovices.

A little below the abbey, at the junction of the Crych with the Glywedog, is the modernised manor-house of *Devanner*, erected about the time of James I.

Abbey Cwm Hir is 9 m. from Llandrindod, 16 from Builth, and 7 from Rhayader.]

[From the turnpike on the road from Llandrindod to Newtown it is 1 m. to the village of *Llanddewi Stradenny* (church uninteresting),

which abounds in old intrenchments.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. beyond, the road is carried on the l. bank of the Ithon, between 2 hills of considerable height, on each of which was a camp, while others are to be met with at the head of *Cwm Aran*, 3 m. to the rt. See above at Llanbister Rd. Stat.

13 m. (from Llandrindod) on rt. is the Church of *Llanbister* (already described), to the rt. of which, 1 m., is the old mansion of *Llynwent*, built in the reign of Elizabeth, which, though much altered, exhibits some traces of its former architecture.

14 m. *Llananno*, the ch. of which has an exceptionally good carved screen and rood-loft, with a cornice-beam carved with fruit and foliage, near which are the slight remains of a very strong fortress, called *Castle Dymbod*, demolished by Llewelyn ap Gruffydd.

Following the windings of the Ithon, the traveller next passes *Llanbadarn Fynydd*, where the ch. still contains traces of good E. Eng. and decorated work, though its eight-bayed oak roof is covered with whitewash, and at 20 m. bids adieu to the Ithon, and to the county of Radnor. From Camnant Bridge, where the road enters Montgomeryshire, it is about 6 m. to *Newtown*. (*Handbook for N. Wales.*)]

From Llandrindod the rly. continues its course S.W. on the high ground above the Ithon, past *Howey*, a thriving Welsh village, and *Howey Hall* (R. W. Banks, Esq.), above which is the ancient intrenchment of *Caer Ddu*, to

38 m. *Builth Road Stat.*, where the Mid Wales Rly. is crossed; and *Lechrwd Stat.* is only divided by a flight of steps from the stat. of the

Central Wales Rly. From here it is 2 m. to \S Builth (Rte. 17). The Central Wales then crosses the Wye to

40 m. **Cilmeri Stat.** Close by is *Cilmeri* (H. Bligh, Esq.), and a short distance from the stat., not far from the little ch. of Llanyis to the rt., are **Cefn-y-bedd** and **Cwm Llewelyn**, sacred to every Welshman as being the scene of the death and burial of Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, the last Prince of Wales, in 1282. During the final struggle for Welsh independence, he came to his castle of Aberedw on the Wye, for the purpose of having an interview with the chieftains; and being nearly surprised by the English forces under Sir Edward Mortimer, rode away in flight, having had his horse's shoes reversed, in order to deceive his pursuers, as the snow lay deep upon the ground. The manœuvre was, however, treacherously made known to the English by Madoc Goch Min Mawr, the blacksmith whom Llewelyn employed. The unfortunate prince, after being refused admittance by the traitorous inhabitants of Builth, crossed the Yrfon near Llanyis, but with his party of followers was speedily overtaken by the English, one of whom, by name Adam de Frankton, killed him and cut off his head, although at first ignorant of the quality of his victim. His body was buried at Cefn-bedd-Llewelyn. A short distance to the l. is *Llanganten* church, situated on the bank of the Chweffru, which falls into the Yrfon.

On l. of rly. is the ch. of *Llanafon Fechan*.

43 m. \S **Garth Stat.** Garth is said to have been once a residence of the Princes of Wales. It was from Garth that Charles Wesley took his bride.

A road from hence leads over the *Mynydd Epynt* to Brecon, passing

by the side of Cwm-graig-ddu precipice, terminating a narrow dingle, which, viewed from below, presents a sublime appearance. This range of hills, with Mynydd Bwlch-y-groes, forms an enormous mass of mountain extending on the rt. nearly the whole way from Llanwrtyd to Builth, and are an unmistakable feature in the landscape, though taken singly they are rather monotonous in their outline. 1 m. to rt. is *Llanlleonfel* church, rebuilt in 1875, which contains some mural monuments of the Gwynne family. Close by are traces of the Roman road Sarn Helen, connecting Maridunum with Deva, and uniting with the branch from Bannium.

45 m. \S **Llangammarch**, a village situated at the confluence of the Cammarch with the Yrfon, and rapidly growing in importance as a health resort on account of its mineral springs. The country round is wild and picturesque. Archaeologists or visitors who want an object for a walk will find (2 m.) a **tumulus** on Caerau farm, between which and the Cammarch many fragments of Roman pottery have recently been found; and a British camp at Dolaelon (3 m.). The scenery becomes rather monotonous between Builth and Llanwrtyd. 4 m. to rt. is **Llwyn-Madoc**, the seat of Miss Thomas.

48½ m. \S **Llanwrtyd Wells Stat.** (about 1 m. from the wells). This little place, remote and isolated as it seems, yet enjoys a large share of the patronage of the valetudinarian population, and its waters, sulphur and chalybeate, are said to have great virtue. The scenery becomes broken and romantic as the visitor penetrates further into the mountains, following the river Yrfon as his guide. Many beautiful walks and excursions are to be made in this district, and Llanwrtyd will make a

convenient halting-place for the pedestrian who wishes to explore the upper part of the vales of Towey and Yrfon. The parish ch. is about a mile from the village at the entrance of a mountain gorge, the road to which is along the brawling Yrfon. The *Osmunda regalis* used to flourish on marshy ground near the wells, and there are still some of these flowers hereabouts. [This latter river rises in the mountains to the N.W. of *Drygarn*, about 11 or 12 m. from Llanwrtyd. The first object of interest is the wooded hill of *Penllynas*, which rises on the rt. bank of the stream, on the opposite side of which, at the farm of *Llwyngwychn*, is the cave of a notorious robber called Rhys Gethin, who, not content with pillaging the king's subjects, was wont to insult the king himself by the following couplet:—

"The king owns all the island
Except what has been apportioned to Rhys."

5 m. on l. is the solitary house of *Llynderw*.

6 m., at the confluence of the Gwessin with the Yrfon, were the 2 small churches of *Llanddewi* and *Llanfihangel Abergwessin*, the former being only 30 ft. by 15, and of most primitive structure. But a single cruciform ch. has been recently built for the joint parishes. The material is the trap-rock of the district, internally cased with brick. There is an open wood-work roof, a handsome chancel arch, and a circular west window. Seven yews, said to be 1300 years old, stand in the ch.-yd. 4 to the N. and 3 to the S. of the church. A beautiful cross of Radyr stone in the ch.-yd. commemorates the late Henry Thomas, Esq., of Llwyn Madoc, and Evan Llewellyn Thomas, his son.

8 m. the river runs through the most wild and romantic scenery, the rocky sides of the glen rising to

a considerable height, and at *Cam ddwr bleiddian*, or the Wolves' Leap it runs to a depth of some 25 or 30 ft. between vertical rocks almost touching each other. It is said that here the last of the Welsh wolves committed *felo de se*. The men and women of the district are a fine healthy-looking race. The Grouse Inn at Abergwessin will supply the wants of pedestrians and sportsmen. About 3 m. to the N.E. the tourist can, if he chooses, ascend *Drygarn Mountain*, or the Three Cairns, and descend on the other side into the valley of the Claerwen, and on to Rhayader.]

[Another excursion can be made up Glen Henog, across Mynydd Trawsant, into the Vale of Towey, down which the traveller proceeds to *Capel Ystrad-y-Ffin* and *Twm Shon Catti's Cave*. The cave is merely a rift in the rocks, and the renowned robber Twm Shon Catti was in sober phrase nothing more than Thomas Jones, Esq., who frequented this cave when courting the heiress of Ystrad y Ffin. The aspect of the locality, however, is wild and romantic enough to found any amount of legendary lore upon it.]

From Llanwrtyd the line ascends very high ground, passing the wild-looking *Sugar Loaf Hill*, the boundary between the counties of Caermarthen and Brecon. After emerging from a tunnel of some length, a fine prospect opens to the traveller. The rly. here may be described as quite a mountain line, and the view to the S., in the direction of Llandovery, is almost grand. The best peep is from 53 m., just before crossing a lofty stone viaduct. It then descends the valley of the Brân to

55 m. *Cynghordy* Stat. On l. is *Glanbrane* Park, once the splendid seat of the Gwynne family, from

whom it passed by purchase to Mr. Crawshay Bailey, who sold it in his turn. The Brân rises to the N.E., and after being joined by the Gwydderig and other streams forms a junction with the Towey, a little below the town of Llandovery.

59½ m. § **Llandovery Stat.** Llandovery is situated on the Brân, and backed in the distance by the sharp-headed and huge Van mountain. On a knoll is the ruined shell of the **Castle**, of uncertain date, but whose origin may be traced to the Norman usurpers of this county, who were enabled, only by such means, to keep what they had seized, in defiance of the rightful owners. In 1159 Walter de Clifford was Lord of Cantref Bychan, and had his chief dwelling at Llandovery Castle, but was dispossessed of it by Rhys ap Gruffydd, in retaliation for divers wrongs; and for a long period it remained in the hands of Gruffydd's family. The slight vestiges of a castle are on an insulated rock, and consist of the ruined keep, and a round tower at the S. angle, as well as the traces of an outer ward.

The other buildings are the parish church, which is, strictly speaking, in the parish of *Llandingat*, and has a Perp. tower; the church of Llanfair-y-bryn to the N. of the town; and the **Collegiate Institution**, a handsome Tudor building, founded by T. Phillips, Esq., of Brunswick Square, London, in 1849, to provide a good classical education for Welsh boys, and now in the front rank of Welsh grammar schools. The first principal was Archdeacon John Williams, a distinguished scholar (author of 'Gomer' and 'Homerus'), and sometime principal of the Edinburgh Academy, and among his successors were the present Bishop and Dean of St. Asaph.

There is a curious old house at the E. end of the town, built by Vicar Prichard, whose Welsh poem,

"The Vicar's Book, or the Welshman's Candle," is held in high reputation by his countrymen. Vicar Prichard was a light to the principality, and especially to his native town, in the early part of the 17th century.

A mile distant, on the l. bank of the Towey, is *Tonn*, the residence of Mr. William Rees, the learned publisher, from whose press have issued so many Welsh works of high reputation.

1 m. to the N. is **Llanfair-y-brynch.**, the former site of a Roman station, evidences of which have occasionally turned up in the form of bricks, coins, glazed ware, and traces of Roman roads. 2½ m. to the N. is a fine camp called Pen-y-Gaer.

[A very interesting excursion can be made from Llandovery up the valley of the Towey to **Ystrad-y-Ffin**, 10 m. At 7 m. are the lead-works of *Nant-y-mwyn* and *Rhandir-mwyn*, belonging to Lord Cawdor, situated on the hillside above the stream, and worked by levels.

8½ m. on l. is **Cwm Gwenffrwd**, a wild mountain dingle of great beauty, up which a road runs for some little distance round Mynydd Mallaen to join the Cothi. A little above the spot where it reaches that river is a deep pool, called *Pwll-fan*, from whence hill-tracks can be followed to Loventium and Tregaron.

9½ m. on l. the united streams of the *Doethiau* and the *Pysgotwr* fall into the Towey, the former river rising in the large lake of **Llyn Berwyn**, from which place to Tregaron would be about 5 m.; but the pedestrian should not attempt to thread the mazes of this wild and difficult country without a guide, or at the very least an Ordnance map.

10 m. **Capel Ystrad-y-Ffin** and **Twm Shon Catti's Cave**, perhaps more easy of access from **Llanwrtyd**. **Capel Ystrad-y-Ffin** is superior in point of scenery to any part of the scenery of the **Towey**, which, here partially hid by conical hills, rushes near the wooded rock of **Cerrig Towey** into the embrace of the **Doethiau**. The cave of **Twm**, the son of **Catherine**, a Welsh "Turpin" who ended by being a magistrate and a thief-taker, is half-way up the W. side of this schistose rock, and is entered by a narrow cleft, which speaks well for the slender figure of the famous robber. The floor of the interior is about 4 yds. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ yds., and the top of it is in parts sheltered from the weather only by overhanging trees. For a good account of **Twm Shon Catti**, Mr. Borrow's 'Wild Wales' (vol. iii.) may be consulted by the curious.] [1 m. from **Llandovery** the new road to **Lampeter** crosses the **Towey** by a handsome suspension bridge of 225 ft. span. 6 m. l. a road leads down the romantic little glen to the village of **Llanwrda** and **Glanrhyd** Stat. $7\frac{1}{2}$ m. l. a road branches off to **Llansawyl**, and across a very mountainous and rugged district into the **Vale of Teifi**. From this elevated spot is a lovely view of the **Vale of Cothi**.

10 m. on rt., on an eminence covered with trees and brushwood, are the Roman mines of **Gogofau**, now again worked, and within the demesne is **Dolaucothy**, late the seat of **J. Johnes, Esq.** (Chairman of Quarter Sessions for county **Carmarthen**, and a branch of the ancient lineage of **Sir Rhys ap Thomas**), who was, in 1875, barbarously murdered by his butler. Many remains of Roman pottery, baths, and ornaments have been found here, affording proof that a Roman station must have existed in connection with the mines; and amongst

other relics the family possesses a "Torch Aur," or golden chain or necklace. Tradition also points to a large tower built of brick, from whence it has been called "The Red Tower of South Wales." Not far from **Dolaucothy** is the site of a Roman villa, beneath the floor of one of the uncovered chambers in which are the remains of a hypocaust. Here, too, are two inscribed stones.

It is probable that the Romans worked these mines for gold; and the Geological Survey has discovered a specimen of free gold in the quartz of one of the lodes. "The majority of the workings, extending to a considerable depth for some acres over the side of the hill, are opened to the day, or worked like a quarry; and the rock through which the lodes run—a portion of the lower **Silurian** rocks—is in many places exposed, and exhibits beds much broken and contorted, though having a general tendency to dip northward. Here and there a sort of cave has been opened on some of the quartz veins, and in some cases has been pushed on as a gallery about 6 to 7 ft. high, and 5 or 6 ft. wide." —*Mem. of Geol. Survey*. Near the workings is a 4-sided stone indented with circular hollows, evidently caused by the stone being employed as a mortar for the purpose of breaking up the ore. Rather more than 1 m. behind **Gogofau**, is the church of **Cynfil Cayo**, a large ancient church, supposed to have belonged to a monastic institution, and having a good tower with stone vaulting. In this parish is the source of the **Gwenfrwd**, a tributary of the **Towey**.

$10\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Pumsant**, a fishing-station on the **Cothi**, where there is a little roadside inn, well reported of by Mr. Borrow. The name of the village commemorates "five saints" unknown.

The road, after ascending a long

range of hills, from the summit of which, at 14 m., is a magnificent view of the hills of Cardiganshire, descends to, 18 m., Lampeter (Rte. 22).]

Near Llandovery is *Blaenos*, the seat of John Jones, Esq.

On rt. is *Llwyn-y-brain* (Major Rice), and a little further on l. *Dol-y-carrog* (C. Bishop, Esq.).

63½ m. **Llanwrda** Stat., near a pretty village of that name, with a singular looking ch. and an enormous yew in the ch.-yd.

65 m. **Llangadock** Stat., a small decayed town, with one of the oldest parish churches in the county, prettily situated between the rivers Senni and Sawdde, and at the foot of the Black Mountains, over which a road is carried S. through Cwm Amman and Pontardawe to Neath. During the contest between the English and Welsh in the reign of Edward I., a complaint was made to the Archbishop of Canterbury of the atrocities of the English soldiers, who had plundered the church of Llangadock, and, after wounding the priest before the altar, converted it into a stable for their horses. There is the tradition of a *castle* at Llangadock; and **Abermarlais**, not far from Llangadock Bridge, was the moated and fortified residence of Sir Rhys ap Thomas. In the grounds of Abermarlais, near the entrance, is a *Maenhir* of good proportions.

About 3 m. S.W. of Llangadock, on the summit of a detached hill, called *Carn-Goch*, projecting in front of the mural ridge of *Trichrûg*, is a Roman encampment, in the form of a regular parallelogram, of the age of the Llandeilo flags. "One of the largest faces is a natural wall of quartz rocks, the beds of which, dipping to the N.W., present a bold precipitous face to the Vale of Towey. The other walls, which in places are

still 20 to 30 ft. high, have been formed by piling large and shattered blocks, which, from their angularity, give a Cyclopean character to these desolate and venerable ruins."—*Murchison*.

2 m. up the Sawdde, to the N. of **Blaen Dyffryn Garn**, formerly stood a cromlech, which was destroyed by the stupidity of a peasant. According to the tradition of the country it was the last place in Britain where human sacrifices were offered, and even down to recent times, the spot was chosen for the reconciliation of friends by the contending parties shaking hands over the stone-heap.

67 m. **Glanrhyd** Stat.

68½ m. **Talley Road** Stat. 2 m. on rt., on an eminence, is *Manoravon* (D. Pugh, Esq.), and on l. *Taliaris*, the handsome seat of W. Peel, Esq., from whence it is 2 m. to

LLANDEILO JUNCT., 70 m.

The picturesque town of **Llandeilo Fawr** is curiously plastered, as it were, against the precipitous face of a high hill, rising above the rt. bank of the Towey. The road performs a steep ascent to reach the centre of the town, where, passing through the churchyard of St. Teilo (who gives his name to the place), it again descends to the level of the river, which it reaches at the foot of the bridge. This is one of the three fortunate places honoured by being the depository of St. Teilo's bones, the other two being Llandaff and Penally, near Tenby. The **Church** (from which there is a most lovely view both up and down the valley) was rebuilt in 1848, and is one of the best in the Principality, consisting of a nave, chancel, aisle, and transept, and an old steeple which belonged to the former building. The plan of Llandeilo church, like those of Llandingat and St. Peter's, Caermarthen, as well as of numbers

of churches in the Vale of Clwyd, is that of two nearly parallel aisles. A fine organ is placed on the ground-floor.

Llandeilo is chiefly celebrated for the beauty of its vicinity, and the number of interesting objects lying within a short distance of it. Immediately outside the town, on a curve of the rt. bank of the river, is **Dynevor** Castle and Park (Lord Dynevor), which is diversified with most beautiful woods and undulations, arising from the remarkable dislocations of the flagstone strata, which have divided it into separate knolls, covered from top to bottom with noble trees. The mansion is modern, but contains two ancient carved oak chairs, in good condition, said to have been used by Sir Rhys ap Thomas. Upon a headland are seen the ivy-clad ruins of the original Dynevor, or as it was formerly called, Newton Castle, the view of which has been considerably opened by the judicious clearings of the present Lord Dynevor. These ruins will repay a visit. The keys are kept by the gardener at the modern mansion; and the lodge entrance to the park is outside the town of Llandeilo to the N. From the lodge to the ruins (2 m.) the roadway is fair in the main, and only the last $\frac{1}{2}$ m. requires climbing afoot, up to the castle-gate. Carriage visitors will do well to retain their vehicles. The original form of the castle was circular, and it was fortified with a double moat and rampart, but now the principal features are a square and round tower, overhanging the precipice, and some battlemented walls, part of the original enclosure. Tradition states that Dynevor was the residence, Dryslyn Castle the coronation-place, and Cerrig Cennen the stronghold of the Rhys family, while they were princes of S. Wales. The first castle on this spot was built by Roderic the Great, and descended from him to his son

Cadell, but was destroyed and rebuilt more than once before the present structure arose. The story runs, that one of the first owners of Dynevor confined within these walls his father and his younger brother, having deprived the latter of his sight, to secure for himself the inheritance. The blind youth, however, knowing every passage and corner of the castle, groped his way to his parent's cell, burst open the door and set him free. It was seized in 1194 by the turbulent usurper Maelgwn, but wrested from him in 1204 by his brother Gruffydd's sons. In 1257 it was besieged by the English, but relieved by Llewellyn after a most sanguinary battle. The estate was granted by Henry VII. to Sir Rhys ap Thomas Fitz Urien, one of the first and most faithful supporters of his cause, to whom he owed the throne. His grandson was, nevertheless, one of the victims of the tyranny and cupidity of Henry VIII., who caused him to be seized on a frivolous charge of treason, and beheaded, and his estates confiscated, 1531. Lord Dynevor is lineally descended from Urien, Prince of Reged.

On the N. bank of the Towey, within this domain, Spenser has placed the cave of Merlin:—

“ There the wise Merlin, whilom wont, they

say,
To make his wonne low underneath the
ground

In a deep delve far from the view of day,
That of no living wight he mote be
found

When so he counsell'd with his sprights
around.

And if thou ever happen that same way
To travel, go and see that dreadful
place.

It is a hideous, hollow, cave-like bay,
Under a rock that has a little space
From the swift Tyvi, tumbling down
apace

Amongst the woody hills of Dinewour.
But dare not thou, I charge, in any case
To enter into that same baleful bow'r,
For fear the cruel fiends should thee un-
ware devour.”

Faerie Queene, iii. cant. 3.

Merlin's Cave and Chair (a neighbouring rock) are near Abergwili, the point of the Gwili's junction with the Towey.

[A pleasant excursion can be made from Llandeilo to **Talley Abbey**, and through the Vale of Cothi to Gogofau (p. 151).

3 m. l. is the wooded domain of *Taliaris* (W. Peel, Esq.), and 8 m. *Talley Abbey*, placed in a most lovely situation in a deep vale, at the head of two lakes, formerly belonging to the abbey, which, in the time of Henry VII., was richly endowed. The ruins, though small, harmonise well with the scenery around; the only remains being the finely proportioned but undecorated arches which supported the central tower.

To the E. of the ch., which was built towards the close of last centy., stands a solitary yew, near which tradition places the grave of Dafydd ap Gwilym.

9 m. l., occupying the bank of a well-wooded knoll, and overhanging the Cothi, is *Rhydodyn* (Sir J. Williams Drummond, Bart., of Edwinsford, Caermarthen, and of Hawthornden, N.B.). From thence the road runs along the l. bank of the river to Pumsant and Gogofau, about 7 m.]

Before quitting Llandeilo, an interesting excursion may be made to the ruins of **Carreg Cennen Castle**, situated about 3 m. S.E. of the town, in a smaller valley lying behind a double barrier of hills, which is the S. prolongation of the ridge of Trichrug. From the very steep and rough ascent leading from the bridge, one of the best views is gained of the Vale of Towey, including the whole of Dynevor Park. After about 2 m. of ascent, a foot-path, somewhat devious, strikes out of the road to the castle, which ap-

pears conspicuously rising out of the narrow ravine of the Cennen. It is one of the most striking and picturesque ruins in Wales, planted on an isolated and precipitous rock of mountain limestone, rising to a height of nearly 300 ft. above the stream, and surrounded by bleak and bare hills of sandstone. Its buildings, inaccessible on all sides but one, and almost impregnable before the discovery of gunpowder, occupy the entire platform which forms the summit of the rock, not more than an acre in extent, and consist of 2 square towers on the N. side, defending the entrance, a large round tower, and an octagonal tower. The very curious passage, descending through the solid rock for more than 100 ft., and called "The Well," is supposed by Sir R. Murchison to be a natural fissure, and not an artificial excavation. The only water to be obtained from it is the scanty droppings from the rock, and the only receptacle for it a basin, incapable of holding 2 gallons. It is said, however, that the spring, at which the passage terminates, though not abundant, is never-failing. It is lighted, at intervals, by lateral loopholes pierced through the limestone. The view from the top of the rock is most extensive, commanding interminable valleys and ridges, the vistas of which extend to the sea on one side, and a long reach of the Vale of Towey on the other.

The history of these ruins has not been recorded; antiquaries have claimed for them a British founder, Urien, one of the Knights of the Round Table, or a Roman origin, but the existing structure is probably not older than Henry III. or Edward I. Fragments of the great N. gateway and of windows to the S.W. bespeak the date of Edward II. There is very scant mention of this fortress even in local history, further than that in 1247 Rhys

Fychan recovered it from the English, to whom his mother had surrendered it. Antiquities, both Roman and British, in the form of coins, flint axe-heads, &c., have been found in the neighbourhood; and further up, near the source of the brook Cennen, are some curious excavations in the hill-side, supposed to have formed part of a British town.

About 1 m. to the S. of the castle, at **Cwrt Pen-y-Banc**, or Cwrt Bryn-y-Beirdd, are the remains of a considerable mansion nearly coeval with the fortress. Many of the original features of the building still remain, an ancient fire-place and massive floor of hewn oak, beside roof-timbers, and dressings of doorways and windows in red sandstone. Hard by, in a field, there is a trace of a kistvaen, locally known as the "graves of the Druids" (Towyn Beddau Derwyddon). About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Cerrig Cennen Castle is *Llygad Lloghor*, or the source of the Lloghor river, in a cavern, from whence it issues in a considerable stream (Rte. 21).

From Llandeilo a branch line runs to Swansea and Llanely, the main line (Rte. 21) keeping along the S. bank of the Towey to Caer-marthen, 84 m.

72 m. **Golden Grove Stat.** On l. is *Golden Grove*, a seat of the Earl of Cawdor, left to his great-grandsire by Mr. Vaughan, a descendant of the Earls of Carberry. The old house, which was burnt down, stood amidst the gardens seen on the l. of the turnpike road; but the modern house (Lord Emlyn) stands on a platform high up the hill-side. It is Elizabethan, with a number of gabled windows, and a tall central tower. From the terrace there is a magnificent view towards the N. and N.E. In the interior are some portraits of the

Vaughan family, and one of "Sacharissa," Lady Dorothy Sidney; also a Canaletto and a Luca Giordano. Near the site of the old house is a grove of old oak-trees, where a walk formerly existed, called after that excellent prelate Jeremy Taylor, who resided here during a season of adversity after the death of his master, Charles I. Taylor's second wife, supposed to be a natural daughter of Charles, possessed a small estate in the neighbourhood, called *Mandinam*, which then belonged to Richard Vaughan, Earl of Carberry, and upon his bounty and hospitality the divine appears to have been supported when deprived of his living by the Puritans. Within the walls of Golden Grove he preached his yearly course of sermons when the churches were closed against him; and there he wrote several of his works, as 'The Life of Christ,' and his 'Manual of Daily Prayers and Litanies,' which he named 'Golden Grove,' in compliment to his patron. Just underneath the park is *Llanfihangel Aberbythyrch*, where Jeremy Taylor is said to have kept a school. It was restored a few years since under the directions of *Sir Gilbert G. Scott*.

A ferry across the Towey river takes the tourist to **Grongar Hill**, westward, near the margin of the Towey, overlooking the village of **Llangathen** (4 m. from Llandeilo), in the ch. of which is a 17th-centy. tomb to Bishop Rudd and his wife. It is not in itself an object of much interest, though rendered so by the verses of the poet Dyer, who was born in the mansion of **Aberglasney**, 1700. *Aberglasney* (now the residence of Mrs. Harris) belonged at an earlier period to Bishop Rudd. The view from Grongar Hill quite justifies the poet's description:—

"Grongar Hill invites my song,
Draw the landscape bright and strong;
Grongar, in whose mossy cells
Sweetly musing Quiet dwells.

Ever charming, ever new !
 When will the landscape tire the view ?
 The fountain's fall, the river's flow,
 The woody valleys warm and low ;
 The windy summit wild and high,
 Roughly rushing on the sky ;
 The pleasant seat and ruin'd tower,
 The naked rock, the shady bower,
 The town and village, dome and farm,
 Each gives each a double charm
 As pearls upon an Æthiop's arm."

A hawthorn-tree on the top of the hill is pointed out as that under which he wrote the poem.

There are traces of a British camp on the hill-top, with a rectangular earthwork to the S.

A little further on, upon the top of a huge hill, which seems to block up the valley, and must have commanded the fords of the Towey, are the extensive earthworks, ivy-clad walls, and tower of **Drysllyn**, one of the Edwardian castles of this valley, erected by one of the princes of the house of Dynevor, and, according to the '*Annales Cambriac*,' a fortress that gave considerable trouble to the English to take and hold. On the opposite side of the river is a triangular tower or monument to Nelson, erected in his grounds by Sir William Paxton, the former possessor of *Middleton Hall*, to the l. of **Llanarthney** Stat. (74 m.), now the fine seat of E. Abadam, Esq. Not far hence, on *Glanzannan Farm*, is an inscribed cross, not unlike that at Carew ; and on the E. bank of the Dules, below Drysllyn, is *Court Henry*, a mediæval house, wholly modernised, but retaining in the chapel, now used as a sitting-room, an early Dec. piscina. The line now crosses the Towey to

78 m. **Nantgaredig** Stat.

81 m. **Whitemill** Stat. On rt. is **Merlin Hill** (*Gallt Fyrddin*), fabled to have been the birthplace of the magician.

82 m. **Abergwili** Stat., a large village situated at the confluence of the

Gwili with the Towey, containing the palace and grounds of the Bp. of St. David's, built in 1830. There is a pretty church with a spire, built in E. E. style. On the opposite side of the river is **Llangynnor Church**.

84 m. **CAERMARTHEN JUNCT.** (Rte. 2).

ROUTE 20.

FROM SWANSEA TO YSTRADGUNLAIS.

(*Swansea Vale Railway.*)

A pleasant excursion can be made up the vale of the Tawe by the Swansea Vale Railway, which runs along the opposite side of the river to the S. Wales line, crossing it at 3 m. **Llansamlet** Stat. The mountains begin to assume a more picturesque aspect and bolder outlines, while the reappearance of wood and vegetation bears evidence of the diminished effect of the copper-works.

4½ m. **Birchgrove** Stat.

5½ m. **Glais** Stat. On l. are *Ynyspenllech* tin-works, one of the largest establishments in Wales, till lately the property of the Llewelyns. On the *Gellionen* mountain, which rises behind, is a mineral spring.

At 8 m. **Pontardawe** Stat., the road from Neath to Cwm Amman crosses the Tawe by a bridge with one arch, 60 ft. in span, with the cylindrical hoops over the haunches,

similar to the one at Pontypridd (and by the same architect, Edwards). At Pontardawe is a handsome church, erected by the munificence of J. Parsons, Esq.

On a hill by the roadside, 2 m. l., called Mynydd Maen Coch, is a large and unusually perfect stone circle, known as **Carn Llechart**. In the centre of it was a kistvaen, 5 ft. long. Another, 2 m. E. of it, is situated on a mountain called Mynydd y Gwryd. The road from here runs by the side of the Swansea Canal, and under the bold hill of Craig-garw, affording beautiful views of the Caermarthenshire Beacons, to 12 m. **Ystalyfera** Stat. Here are large ironworks, which possess 8 furnaces in blast, and employ a large population. The rly. now turns to the l. up the wild glen of **Cwm Twrch**, which is well worth exploring, into the recesses of the mountain ranges of *Tyle-garw* and *Carreg-las*, 14½ m. The *Twrch* is not far S. of the source of the Usk, and is supposed to get its name (= Hog) from the force of its rushing stream. *Pont Twrch* is a bridge over it, not far from Ynisedwin. At *Gwys* Stat. are some collieries.

18 m. **BRYNAMMAN JUNCT.** with the Amman branch of the Caermarthenshire Rly. (Rte. 21.) The high road continues up the valley of the Tawe to

13 m. **Ynisedwin** Ironworks, where the Tawe is joined by the mountain-stream of the *Twrch*, and the traveller enters Breconshire. The coal-measures, which in the S. and E. divisions of the coal-field are bituminous, are here anthracitic, a species of coal which for many years was considered practically useless. The late Mr. Crane, of these works, made the discovery in 1836 that, by using hot instead of cold blast, the anthracite coal made remarkably good iron,—a circumstance

which has since trebled the value of these beds, and caused a large increase of furnaces in this district. The Ynisedwin works, however, are now standing idle. *Ynisedwin House* was the seat of the Gough family, into which it was brought by the heiress of the ancient family of the Aubreys. It was still earlier the patrimony of Gruffydd Gwyr in the 13th centy.

14 m. At **Ystradgunlais**, the antiquary will find in the church two inscribed stones—one built into the outside of the E. wall, marked **HIC JACIT**, and another, forming one of the steps of a staircase on the S. side, with the inscription **ADIVNE**. On the Caermarthenshire border are one or two *arneddau*, and the remains of British encampments.

16 m. **Lamb and Flag Inn**, situated at the head of the Swansea Canal, 1½ m. from which the little river Llech joins the Tawe. The tourist should by all means follow this romantic little stream as far as *Capel Colbren*, and visit the waterfall of *Swd Hen Rhŷd* (Rte. 13). He can then return from *Penwylt* or *Onllwyn* Stat., on the Neath and Brecon line. The very source of the Tawe, under the precipices of *Y Fan Brechiniog* (2631 ft.), can be reached by the mountain road which runs under Cribarth and past *Penwylt Stat.* (Brecon and Neath Ry.) and the village of *Capel Cellwen* to Trecastle. Another road crosses over into the Crai and Senni valleys to *Devynnock* (Rte. 13).

ROUTE 21.

FROM SWANSEA TO LLANELLY AND
LLANDEILO, BY PONT-AR-DULAIS.

(*Central Wales Railway.*)

Quitting **Victoria St. Stat.**, at Swansea, the line takes a course not far from that of the **S. Wales Rly.**, passing 2 m. **Mumbles Road Stat.**, 4 m. **Killay Stat.**, and 5 m. **Dunvant Stat.**

6½ m. **GOWER ROAD JUNCT.** For description of Gower, see *Rte. 2*. Here a short branch to the l. is given off to the little coal-shipping and fishing port of **Penclawdd** 3 m.

8 m. **Gorseinon Stat.** On l. are the village and bridge of *Lloughor* (*Rte. 2*), the estuary of which river the line now follows up, crossing it at

11½ m. **PONT-AR-DULAIS JUNCT.**

[With the **Llanelly branch** 7 m. The traveller to **Llanelly** now skirts the W. bank of the estuary, which is here a sluggish mud-banked stream, to 2 m. **Llangennech Stat.** On rt. is *Llangennech Park*, the seat of *Mrs. Nevill*.

4 m., at **Bynea Stat.**, the line quits the waterside and the vale of the *Lloughor*, and runs over a desolate and unprepossessing district to 6 m. **Llanelly Docks** (*Rte. 2*). A considerable business is carried on here in coal-shipping from the *Gwendraeth* and the *Amman* villages. It will give some idea of the difficulties with which the promoters of the *Docks* have had to contend, to mention that, in 1813,

when the first Harbour Act was applied for, the present harbour was nothing but an open estuary, nearly silted up, over which no vessel exceeding 100 tons could pass at high water. Now ships of 800 or 1000 tons readily find access.

7 m. **LLANELLY JUNCT.** with the **S. Wales line** (*Inns: Stepney Arms, Thomas Arms*).]

At **Pont-ar-dulais**, the line is crossed by the turnpike-road from Swansea to *Caermarthen*. The scenery becomes more pleasing as the vale narrows, and the *Lloughor* puts on the character of a mountain-stream, while the hills, which are of considerable height, gradually approach each other as the traveller nears the great range of the *Black Mountains*.

16½ m. **PANTYFYNNON JUNCT.**, whence a branch line of 5 m. runs up the narrow vale of **Cwm Amman**, principally for the purpose of bringing the anthracite coal to the sea. It runs up into the very heart of the mountains, containing some of the most beautiful scenery in the country, and a pedestrian may with advantage cross the high ground intervening between the *Amman* and the *Twrch*, and descend into the Swansea valley at *Ynyscedwin*, or follow the turnpike road from *Neath* across the mountains to *Llangadock* in the Vale of *Towey*.

1 m. **Cross Inn Stat.**

5 m. **Garnant Stat.**

Cwm Amman appears so remote from the bustle of the world, that the visitor is almost surprised to find a neat church and a rather extensive market-house for the use of the inhabitants. At the very head of the valley is

7 m. **Bryn Amman Stat.**, the population of which is employed in ironworks. Here the *Swansea Valley Rly.* joins this branch.

18 m. **Dyffryn Stat.** The line near this crosses the Loughor, which rises some 4 m. to the N.E., in a curious subterranean hollow called *Llygad Llwehwr*, or the Eye of the Loughor.

20 m. **Llandebie Stat.** is a pretty village placed just underneath the escarpment of mountain-limestone that forms the northern escarpment of the S. Wales coal-fields. On rt. is *Glynhir* (W. Du Buisson, Esq.). It is, as the name imports, a "long ravine," scooped out by the river Llwchwr, on the slope of which this mansion stands.

21½ m. **Derwydd Road Stat.** *Carreg Cennen Castle* (Rte. 19) is 3 m. to the rt.

23½ m. **Fairfach Stat.**, just outside the town of Llandeilo, where the tourist may join the railway along to the Towey to Carmarthen or Builth (Rte. 19).

ROUTE 22.

FROM CAERMARTHEN TO ABERYST-
WYTH, BY LAMPETER.

(*Great Western and Manchester and
Milford Railway.*)

The rly. leaves the S. Wales line at CAERMARTHEN JUNCT., and after calling at the town (Rte. 2) turns to the N. up the pretty valley of the Gwili, leaving the village and ch. of Abergwili to rt. From hence the Central Wales Rly. branches off to rt., en route for Llandeilo and Craven Arms.

On rt. are *Castell Pigyn* (W. O. Price, Esq.) and the beautiful woods and gorge of *Cwm Gwili* (G. Philipps, Esq.).

4 m. **Bronwydd Arms Stat.** There is a camp on the hill-side to the l. The glen becomes extremely pretty and winding in the higher part of its course, and is well worth exploring. As the rly. reaches

7 m. **Conwil Stat.**, on l. is the village of *Cynwyl Elfed*, through which a highroad runs over the Penboyr Hills to **Newcastle Emlyn** (Rte. 23).

9½ m., nearly at the head of the Gwili, is **Llanpumpsaint Stat.**, from whence the line is carried under a

very bleak range of hills by a tunnel to

14 $\frac{3}{4}$ m. **PENCADER JUNCT.**, where the Manchester and Milford Rly. begins. The G. W. R. branch goes on to Llandyssul. An Act has been obtained to continue it from that place to Newcastle Emlyn. (Rte. 23). There is a small mound or fort close to the stat. The country is for the most part bare and uninteresting, containing a thin and scattered population; though from the summits of the hills and sometimes from the rly. many a lovely view is gained into the Vale of Teifi both up and down the river.

16 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. **New Quay Road Stat.**, formerly called *Cross Inn*, about 13 m. from New Quay, where a van goes in summer. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. across country from Llandyssul (a trap from which place would be a saving of distance in getting from Cardigan to the Manchester and Milford Rly.), the rly. descends into the valley of the Teifi near the village of *Llanfihangel-ar-Arth* on l. It was in this neighbourhood that the unfortunate Sarah Jacobs, the Welsh fasting girl, died, 1869.

18 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Maes-y-crugiau Stat.** On l. is the village of **Llan-llwni**, with its church very picturesquely situated on a rock over a gorge in the Teifi above Pontllwni, and *Bwlch Bychan* (John Pugh Vaughan Pryse, Esq.). Passing l., on the opposite side of the river, *Highmead*, the beautiful seat of Col. Herbert Davies Evans, the tourist reaches

22 m. **Llanybyther Stat.**, near which, and on the Highmead estate, is *Lanfechan*, or Lanvaughan, an old seat, now a farm-house, but interesting as containing within the grounds a famous Ogham stone, with a clean-cut Latin inscription, and Ogham character on the margin.

The village of **Llanybyther**, the scene of large fairs and markets, is a pleasant little fishing-station, on the l. bank of "Teifi's clear stream."

On rt., and $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the ch. to the S.W., is **Penygaer**, a conical eminence, commanding a wide and varied view, the summit defended by a fosse and vallum. At the base are traces of **Sarn Helen**, which was carried in nearly the same direction as the turnpike road, in its course from Maridunum (Caermarthen) to Loventium (Llanio).

27 m. \S **Lampeter Stat.**, also called Lampeter Pontstephen. It is a clean insignificant little town, placed in a very pretty valley girt on all sides by wooded hills. The assizes and quarter-sessions for Cardiganshire are now held in the fine new Town Hall built by Mr. Harford. The chief object of attraction is **St. David's College**, founded in 1822, by Bishop Burgess, originally for the instruction of students to be ordained from hence principally with a view to supply the Welsh Church with ministers capable of officiating in the Welsh language; the education being bestowed at a lower rate than at either of the English universities. But it has considerably enlarged its programme. A charter, granted in 1852, enabled it to confer the degree of B.D.; and in 1865 this privilege was supplemented by another charter, allowing the degree of B.A. to be conferred after an examination conducted by examiners chosen in equal numbers by Oxford and Cambridge respectively. Candidates for this degree may graduate in classics, mathematics, natural science, modern history, or theology, after having passed two previous examinations analogous to the Oxford responsions and moderations, conducted by the same examiners as for the B.A. degree. The College is

also affiliated to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. A few students have special leave to receive the College License in Divinity after two years' course; but for the B.A. degree a residence of three years is required. There are no tests required at St. David's College, nor are its benefits confined to those who propose to enter Holy Orders. The two-year students are disqualified for prizes, must be 21 years of age, and require a special recommendation from the bishop. The cost of a student's board, residence, and expenditure at Lampeter College, is not more than 45*l.* or 50*l.* per annum, if he practises economy; and as 800*l.* per annum is given in scholarships and exhibitions, an intelligent student may go through his course with little private cost. The *College Library* is remarkably good, and consists (with constant additions) of the munificent benefactions to it of Bishop Burgess, Thos. Phillips, Esq., of Brunswick Square, and Mr. Scandrett Harford. There are good portraits of Bishop Burgess and Bishop Harold Brown in the dining-hall. The library is rich in theological and historical books, the Councils, *Fœdera*, and so forth, and contains several ancient MSS. and early printed books. The College, a handsome quadrangular building, designed by *Cockerell*, was erected at a cost of 20,000*l.*, and occupies the site of the ancient castle, no vestige of which remains, except perhaps a large mound in the College garden. A new wing of the College, called the Canterbury building, was opened in 1887. The College contains about 120 students. Within the grounds is the St. David's College School, opened about 5 years ago by the College Board to supply the want of intermediate education in the neighbourhood. Lampeter is a good fishing-station, and comfortable headquarters for the tourist who wishes to visit Tregaron.

[S. Wales.]

[The road to the little watering-place of Aberaeron passes

1 m. l. **Falcondale**, the residence of the late J. Battersby Harford, Esq., lord of the manor, on which there is a camp of oval form, on a farm called Llanfairfach. It is then carried up a series of high and bleak hills for 4 m., when a refreshing view is gained of the valley of the **Aeron**, affording, with its cultivated land, a pleasant contrast to the barren mountains around. The source of the Aeron is on Mynydd Bach, a range of hills between the Teifi and the sea. The scenery, while never very romantic, is always pretty and agreeable. At 5 m. a branch-road runs by *Llanllyr* (Col. John Lewes) in a direct line to Aberystwyth, so that the traveller who wishes to save time, would do well to follow it as far as Llanrhytid, where the Aberaeron road rejoins it. Llanllyr was originally a Cistercian nunnery, mentioned by Leland as Lanclere. The vale of Aeron is dotted with several pleasant seats: amongst them, on l. at 7 m., is *Brynog* (Capt. Herbert Vaughan); *Tyglyn-Aeron* (Thomas Winwood, Esq.) on rt.; and *Llan-aeron*, on l. (Mrs. Lewis). Near *Cilcennin*, where was a great house, Plas Cilcennin, in the 17th centy., is *Tri-chrug Aeron* (the three cairns of Aeron). At 11 m. **Llanwchaeron**, the scenery is highly picturesque, the road being carried on a precipitous escarpment overlooking the Aeron, both banks of which are beautifully wooded.

13 m. **Aberaeron** (Rte. 25).]

The rly. continues up the valley of the Dulas passing on the rt. of the Teifi, *Derry Ormond*, the seat of J. Inglis Jones, Esq.; and at the head of the vale is a conspicuous obelisk, erected by Mr. Jones, to the memory of the late possessor of the estate.

29 m. **Derry Ormond Stat.**

To rt. are the silver-lead mines of *Llanfair-Clydogau*, not now worked. From hence the *Sarn Helen* is followed all the way to Llanio; a junction apparently taking place between the Roman road which leads from Maridunum, and that from the station of Llanfairar-y-bryn, near Llan-doverly.

The mine of Llanfair, the property of W. Jones, Esq., has yielded a large quantity of silver. The whole of this parish and the neighbouring one of Cellan are very rich in monumental stones, cairns, and camps, all betokening the proximity to an important high-road and station. The principal of these are **Llech Cynon**, an enormous stone on a circular raised tumulus, but not of the cromlech type; the *Bedd-y-Forwyn*, or the Virgin's Grave, to the S. of this; the large stone called *Byrfaen* (15 ft. in length and 4 ft. in width); some large cairns on *Waun Cellan* mountain; and *Castell Allt-goch* and **Castell Goytre** on the hills on the opposite bank of the Teifi.

34 m. **Pont Llanio Stat.**

To the rt., under *Craig Twrch*, is the little village of **Llanddewi Brefi**, which, insignificant as it now appears, once held a high position amongst the ecclesiastical councils of Wales. Here it was that St. David held a synod in the year 519 for the purpose of checking the increasing heresy of Pelagius; and here the holy Dubricius, tired of the cares of office, gave up to him his archbishopric of Caerleon, and retired to solitude and meditation in Bardsey Island. Near the ch., founded by Thomas Bee, Bishop of St. David's, in 1187, but since modernised, are the ruins of an ancient collegiate establishment erected at the same time. They are still called *Lluest Cantorion* or *Chanters' Residence*. According to

tradition, the ground on which the ch. was built rose up by miracle into a hillock at the preaching of St. David, whilst the erection of the ch. was also attended by a miracle. One of the yoke of oxen hauling stone up the hill failed, and died under its burden. The other bellowed out nine times, and, lo! the hill parted in the midst, so as to ease the ascent and draught for the one ox. "*Brefi*" is the Welsh for bellowing. [From Llanddewi a pedestrian can make a lovely excursion up the vale of the Breinig, passing the old mansion of *Vocalt*, across the mountains, descending by the glen of the *Pysgottwr* to the Vale of Towey. The way is lonely and intricate, and ought not to be undertaken without an Ordnance map or a guide.]

1 m. to l., and on the turnpike-road between Lampeter and Tregaron, is the farmhouse of *Llanio*, occupying the site of the ancient station of *Lorentium*, through which along the W. bank of the Teifi, the *Sarn Helen* runs from Maridunum to Machynlleth. Specimens of pottery, coins, bricks, &c., have been turned up by the plough; and the foundation of a building was discovered in a field called *Caer Castell*. Three stones, one of which is used as a seat at the farm-door, are mentioned by the late Sir Sam. Meyrick, inscribed "*Caii artis manibus primus*," "*Overioni*," and "*Cohors Secundæ Augusta fecit quinque passua*."

36 m. **3 Tregaron Stat.**, a little town prettily situated on the river *Berwyn*, about 1 m. above its confluence with the Teifi. The ch. has an embattled tower 60 ft. high, a nave and chancel. In the ch.-yd. are four ancient monumental stones. The most famous historical celebrity of Tregaron was *Twm Shon Catti*, a famous swindler and robber who flourished in the 17th centy. By many he has been described as the

leader of banditti who infested the country, but in reality he was a gentleman, an antiquary, and a poet, who in the earlier part of his life was rather a "mauvais sujet" and lived a good deal by his wits. He subsequently reformed, married an heiress, and became high sheriff of Cardigan-shire, as well as Mayor of Brecon. Barrow, who evidently sympathised with Twm's vagabondage, shows that the myth about the "severed hand" appears in the folk tales of most nations. From Tregaron the tourist may walk up the valley of the Berwyn to **Llyn Berwyn**, a lake of considerable size in the heart of the mountain, and from thence make his way to the Towey or the head of the Doeithiau. Another lake near Tregaron is *Maes Llyn*, "The Lake of the Field," where, according to tradition, the town originally stood.

42 m. **Strata Florida Stat.** The Abbey is nearly 3 m. from the stat. On the l. are the interesting ruins of **Strata Florida Abbey**, sheltered on three sides by swelling hills, and washed on the S. by the infant Teifi. The original foundation of Cistercians was on the river Flûr, about 2 m. to the S., and still bears the name of "Yr Hen Monachlog," or the old Monastery. This was in all probability founded by Rhys ap Iudor, whose grandson, Rhys ap Iuffydd, erected the abbey in 1194. The name of Strata Florida is the latinised form of Ystrad Flûr—a name probably adapted by the later abbey from its predecessor. It was the earlier monastery which was visited by Giraldus and Archbishop Baldwin.

For many a long year the "rich monastery of Strat-flur" was the centre of civilization, and of Welsh national life in those parts, the refuge and the last resting-place of some of the noblest of the Welsh princes. To the munificence of the House of Cadell it owed its great

possessions; its monks and abbots seem to have been mainly Welshmen or to have had very Welsh names, and with the decay and death of Welsh independence its prosperity waned and fell to the ground.

The monks of the abbey owned almost all the country round; and, according to Leland, "al the montaine ground betwixt Alen (Elan river) and Strateflur longeth to Stratefleere," as well as a large tract of hill between Builth and Llan-doverly. Whilst in the zenith of its prosperity, it was famous for being the repository of the national records of Wales from 1156 until 1270. The 'Annales Cambriæ' may have been more or less compiled by its monks, and the Rolls edition of the 'Brut y Tywysogion,' transcribed from the 'Red Book of Hergest,' is believed to have come from the Abbey.

In Leland's time "the church was large, side ilid, and crosse ilid;" but all that was, until quite recently, to be seen of this once famous building was a very beautiful round-headed Norm. arch, which formed the W. entrance to the ch. Happily in 1887 Mr. Stephen Williams, F.R.I.B.A., began to carry into execution an idea long cherished by him of laying bare the foundations of the abbey. With some help from the Camb. Archæol. Assoc., but chiefly thanks to his own skill and perseverance, the accumulated soil has been cleared away and the ground plan of the building and much evidence of its decorative details been brought to light. Much still remains to be done, but the work is at present stayed for want of funds. The style is transitional from Norm. to E.E. Much of the work was executed in alternate bands of coloured stone as at St. David's, and throughout the building, says Mr. Williams, "there seems a wonderful resemblance in point of plan and general design to that portion of the Cathedral built by Bishop Peter de Leia, who was con-

secrated in 1176." The total length of the abbey is 213 ft., and that of the nave 132 ft. 6 in., a measurement only surpassed among Welsh ecclesiastical buildings by Abbey Cwm-hir. The church consisted of a nave and aisles, N. and S. transepts, central tower, chancel, and a chapter-house beyond the S. transept. On the eastern and outer side of the S. transept have been found several monks' graves, of a very early date, and some of which have their headstones still standing. In the chapels of the transepts were found tile-pavements, singularly rich and beautiful in design and very well preserved, probably of the 14th centy., some depict costumes of the period, others armorial bearings. Mr. Williams finds in the internal details of the abbey, which were undoubtedly of remarkable richness and fancy, a distinctly Celtic character. The site of the abbey belongs to W. Powell, Esq., of Nanteos; and the old abbey house is now a farm-homestead. Within the precincts of the abbey stands a small and mean parish ch. There is a curious old picture on panel in the farm-house, which represents Temptation, and is said to have belonged to the monks, but is evidently of much later date. At Strata Florida, under a sacred yew-tree (as Borrow surmises) was buried Dafydd ap Gwilym, a famous bard of the Cymri. The abbey may be seen on application at the farm-house where several interesting relics are preserved, and where an excellent guide compiled by Mr. Williams may be bought.

From the abbey the pedestrian can make an excursion to the *source of the Teifi*, 3 m., which emerges from Llyn Teifi, a mountain lake of considerable size on the confines of Brecknockshire and Cardiganshire, while tributary streams issue from three smaller lakes, Llynhir, Llyn-y-gorlan, and Llyn-Egnant. These

lakes have a wild and desolate character peculiarly their own: "of al the pooles none stondeth in so rokky and stony soile as Tyve doth, that hath withyn hym many stonis. The ground al aboute Tyve, and a great mile of towards Stratfler, is horrible, with the sight of bare stonis, as Cregeryri mountaines be." —*Leland*. From this lake, which, like most mountain tarns, bears the uncanny character of being unfathomable, issues the clear stream of Teifi, which brawls over many a rocky bed ere it becomes the noble river that flows under Cardigan bridge.

"Sith I must stem thy stream, clear Teivy,
yet before
The Muse vouchsafe to seize the Cardi-
ganian shore,
She of thy source will sing in all the Cam-
brian coast:
Which of thy castors once, but now canst
only boast
Thy salmons, of all floods most plentiful in
thee." —*Drayton*.

"There is very good trouttes and elys" (writes Leland), "but no other fisch." But this does not hold as regards "other fisch" at the present time.

Beavers are said to have been at one time plentiful in this river, a fact alluded to not only by the poet, but also by Giraldus Cambrensis:—

"Inter universos Cambrie seu etiam Logegrie fluvios, hic solus castores habet."

After passing *Pont-rhyd-fendi-gaid*, or the Bridge of the Blessed Ford, the traveller reaches a rather dirty little hamlet, with a roadside inn, convenient only for those anglers who wish to try their fortune in the Teifi, which flows through a very flat and marshy district.

The rly. now turns to the l., quitting the valley of the Teifi and crossing wild and high ground to that of the Ystwyth. At *Ystrad Meurig* is a celebrated grammar-school

founded by one Edward Richards in 1757. This school had the good fortune to find an able head-master in the Rev. D. Williams, the father and tutor of several eminent scholars, amongst whom were the Archdeacon of Cardigan (Homerus Williams) and his brother David. A cell formerly existed here, belonging to the Abbey of Strata Florida, from whence the village was called Ysppyty Ystrad Meurig, the third "hospitium" that was established in this district, the others being Ysppyty Cynfyn and Ysppyty Ystwyth. The scanty ruins of the Castle built by Gilbert, Earl of Clare, stand upon an eminence in the village, and on a hill 1 m. distant, called *Penyffallwydd*, is a camp.

The high ground of *Ffair-rhos*, 2 m. to the E., between Ysppyty Ystwyth and Pont-rhyd-y-fandigaid, commands on the N. the Montgomeryshire hills, as far as Cader Idris, and on the S. the valley of the infant Teifi, with the long, desolate ranges of hills that extend almost without a break from Llandoverly into Shropshire.

On rt. is **Llanafan**, the ch. of which contains an ancient silver communion dish, presented by the Earls of Lisburne.

47 m. **Trawscoed** Stat.

On the rt. bank of the river is *Crosswood* (Welsh, Trawscoed), the beautiful park of the Earl of Lisburne, the principal land-owner of the district. On the opposite side is *Birchgrove*.

Passing *Llidiarde*, the seat of J. Parry, Esq., the line reaches

50 m. **Llanilar** Stat., to the l. of which is the *Parish Ch.* erected probably in the 14th centy., and one of the trio of churches in Wales dedicated to St. Hilary—(Trefilan, near Lampeter, and a ch. in Glamorgan-shire are the others). The old ch., which had a fine open roof, arranged

in diapered cross-bars, a seven-sided font, and a holy water stoup, was restored in 1873-4, from designs by Mr. R. Kyrke Penson, in such a way as to retain the good external features, and to remove the unsightly excrescences of Churchwarden's Gothic from the interior. The widow of the revered author of the 'Cathedral,' Mr. Isaac Williams, was one of the principal subscribers to this good work, and the paten used for Holy Communion was the gift of the Rev. Lewis Gilbertson, late Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford. The chalice, which is of silver, and set about its edge with Swedish copper coins, bears this inscription: "The gift of John Parry, Messenger in Ordinary to their Majesties George I. and II., to the parish church of Llan Hilarey, in the county of Cardigan, where he was born. This chalice was brought by him from Stockholm, in the year '20, where he resided many years in the above capacity."

52 m. **Llanrhytid** Road. (Rte. 25.)

56 m. **§ Aberystwyth** Stat., is very prettily situated on the sea-shore, between the hills at the mouth of the Rheidol, which, after passing under a bridge of 5 arches, here unites with the Ystwyth in an artificial channel, and both together fall into the Bay of Cardigan. The union of the 2 rivers was effected in order (by strengthening the current and increasing the volume of water) to scour out the harbour. It is a sort of Welsh Brighton, resorted to in the summer-time for sea-bathing, and abounds in lodging-houses, of which the best are to be found on the Terrace, a crescent facing the sea and following the curve of the beach. In front of it are the bathing-machines, and hot salt-water baths are provided near at hand and in the town. From the S. end of the Terrace an elegant promenade pier runs into the sea. The beach shelves

down very rapidly ; and as the tide comes in at times with great force, bathers should be cautious. The beach is remarkable for the quantity of pebbles to be found on it—such as cornelians, onyx, &c. ; the searching for which is often the principal occupation of visitors, who, particularly after a storm, wander up and down with bent backs and downcast eyes. The harbour having become obstructed by the formation of a bar at its mouth, a new pier has been constructed, projecting on one side 300, and on the other 100 yds., into the sea. A chief object of this pier, which extends in a N.N.W. direction towards Bardsey Island, is to protect the outfall of the united rivers, Rheidol and Ystwyth, from the swell of the ocean. On a lofty rock overlooking the sea stand the ruins of the **Castle**, originally founded by Gilbert de Strongbow, a greedy and unscrupulous Norman baron, who received a licence from his master, Henry I., founded on the charter of “the strong hand,” to seize as much as he could of the lands of the Welsh chieftain Cadwgan ap Bleddyn ; and the result was, that, by the aid of a superior force, he dispossessed him of all Cardiganshire, and secured it to himself by building strong castles. The existing remains, consisting of a gateway, a tower 40 ft. high, with an arched doorway grooved for two portcullises on the N.W., and fragments of other towers and walls, are probably of the time of Edward I., who built a castle here after granting a hard-wrung peace to Llewelyn ap Gruffydd. Mr. Bushel, the fortunate proprietor of the neighbouring lead and silver mines, established here a mint, with permission of Charles I., to pay his workmen, by coinage of bullion drawn from mines in the Principality. He afterwards showed his gratitude by lending the king 40,000*l.*, by clothing the whole of his army, and by raising, at his own expense,

a regiment among his miners. The pieces thus coined are marked with the Prince of Wales’ Feathers, and are common in the cabinets of collectors. They bear date from 1638 to 1642, when the mint was transferred to Shrewsbury. The castle was besieged by the Parliamentarians during the civil war, and was bombarded by Cromwell from the neighbouring height of Pendinas—such at least is the local tradition. It is more likely, however, that the castle was first mined and then blown up, as huge fragments, still visible, militate against the Pendinas theory. From the time of its capture its present decay may be dated. The hill and the ruins are now rendered accessible by agreeable walks. Adjoining the castle are the public rooms and the ch., of which all that can be said of it is, that it offers suitable accommodation. There is a second ch. in Gray’s Inn Lane, from designs by *Butterfield*. Below the castle, at the end of the Terrace, stands the **University College of Wales**, a very fine English-Gothic building, with a remarkable history. The central portion was originally an erection of Nash, the architect of Regent’s-street, London, for Sir Uvedale Price, the author of a well-known work “*On the Picturesque*.” This was converted, by the addition of two wings, under the direction of Mr. S. P. Seddon, into a gigantic hotel. But the hotel proving a failure, the building was finally purchased for the University College of Wales, the first of such Colleges founded in the Principality. In 1885 the whole of the interior of the N. wing was destroyed by fire. After much discussion it was decided to rebuild it for the College, with such alterations to the rest of the building as were required to make the whole really suitable for educational purposes. This result has been most successfully attained, owing to the skill of Mr. Seddon, and at a cost of

not much more than half of what a new, and probably less imposing, building would have involved. The greater part of the building is already available for the work of the student. The college was originally opened in 1872, and though it has now to face the competition of its two younger sisters at Bangor and Cardiff, its numbers have grown steadily. It has now (1889) 175 students. It was originally founded entirely by voluntary effort, but now receives 4000*l.* a year from the Government, and has lately been granted a Royal Charter.

In the environs of the town, on the banks of the Rheidol, and approachable by a pleasant inland walk along a mill-stream, is **Plas-crug**, a ruined castellated house, said to have been the residence of Owain Glyndwr; and near it is a chalybeate spring, whose waters are said to resemble in their properties those of Tunbridge Wells.

Many pleasant walks and excursions can be taken in the neighbourhood. The hill on the N. of the town, called **Constitution Hill**, or *Craig-lais*, is traversed by agreeable walks; and there is a path stretching N. along the cliffs as far as Borth Sands, 5 m., overlooking the estuary of the Dovey, and commanding splendid views of the sea and its bold coast, which affords scenery of the highest picturesque order. On the N. side of the *Craig-lais* are the pretty river and vale of Clarach, the well-wooded demesne of *Cwm Cynfelin* (the seat of the late M. D. Williams, Esq.), and the ch. of *Llangorwen*, built from designs by *Butterfield*. *Peithyll*, the seat of E. L. Pryse, Esq., is on the rt. as you approach Aberystwyth.

1 m. further is a curious reef or causeway, running, it is said, for 7 m. out to sea, and believed to be the remains of a Roman road called

Sarn Cynfelin. According to tradition, a large tract of land known as *Cantref-y-Gwaelod*, or the Lowland Hundred, formerly occupied the site of Cardigan Bay. This country, which is said to have possessed 16 fortified towns and population and riches without end, was devastated by a fearful irruption of the sea, which utterly destroyed it. This calamity was due, as tradition affirms, to the slackness of *Seithenyn*, the drunken commissioner, and took place circ. 520 A.D. *Sarn Cynfelin*, and other causeways resembling it, are considered to be the only vestiges of this once flourishing district.

5 m. **§ Borth** (stat.) is a wretched-looking fishing-village by the side of the marsh and estuary of the Dovey, across which is a ferry to the town of Aberdovey in N. Wales. There is, however, a capital hotel, to which the late Mr. Thring boldly transported the Uppingham School, when its proper domicile had become untenable from its unsanitary condition. The sands and solitude attract those who prefer quiet to gay watering-places.

The visitor may vary his excursion by returning to Aberystwyth by the *Machynlleth* road, which the Aberdovey road joins near the romantic village and church of **Llanfihangel-geneu'r-glyn**. Upon the hill above the village and stat. is a very perfect circular earthwork called **Castell Gwalter**, or *Walter's Castle*. Of the structure, said to have been built here by *Walter L'Espece*, a Norm. adventurer, only the earthworks and outlines remain. Near it, at a place called **Bedd Taliesin**, is the cairn and kistvaen which is supposed to mark the last resting-place of the bard, who flourished about the 6th centy. It is upwards of 100 ft. in circumference. 2½ m. further, at a place called *Nant y Nôd*, are two early British circles. *Go-*

gerddan, the seat of Sir Pryse Pryse, Bart., is 3 m. from the town, on the same road, but not visible from it.

It is a very beautiful excursion to **Devil's Bridge**, 12 m., passing 3 m. rt. **Nanteos**, the seat of Col. Powell. It is finely situated, overlooking from a height of 300 ft. the leafy glen of the Rheidol, while immediately below the house runs the narrower gorge of the Mynach, which here joins the Rheidol, filling the air with the roar of its waters. The Devil's Bridge is not more than 30 yds. from the house on the road to Rhayader, and might easily be passed without exciting attention, so completely is the narrow gorge which it spans choked up by trees and shrubs. It consists, properly speaking, of 2 bridges—a lower one, now a mere curve of rude masonry, built, it is said, in the 11th or 12th cent. by the monks of Strata Florida Abbey, whence perhaps comes its Welsh name of "Monk's Bridge;" and a more modern arch immediately over it, of about 30 ft. span, built in 1753, at a height of 120 ft. above the torrent, which is barely perceived among trees and rocks, as it works its way through the dark abyss below. There is a similar double bridge on the Pass of St. Gothard among the Alps; the modern and upper arch having been made, as is the case here also, to avoid the inconvenient descent to the lower and older one, which in both instances, from the boldness of its construction, has been attributed by the wondering peasantry to the architecture of the devil, the satanic Pontifex Maximus. The falls of the Mynach are in the grounds of the Hotel Company, which charges 1s. for each visitor, freeing him as often as he likes to go. The falls of the Rheidol may be visited by another path with more difficulty.

The best way to see the bridge is

to cross it, and, taking a path to the rt., descend to the water's edge. Immediately under the bridge the gorge is reduced to a mere crack in the slate rock, over which, to all appearance, a man might stride. The torrent in descending towards it rushes and boils among the hard rocks, and, by the aid of the small stones which it whirls along with it, has scooped out the sides into grooves, giving to the bed of the stream the appearance of a succession of huge caldrons.

Most engravings of this bridge represent in one and the same view the waterfalls also; but in this the licence taken by the painter is as great as that allowed to poets, since from no point accessible at present can the bridge be seen at the same time as the falls, owing to a bend in the ravine. The falls may be seen by taking another pathway on the l. of the high road, about 30 yds. beyond the bridge, which leads by a rude staircase, cut in the splintery rock through the underwood to a promontory projecting between the Rheidol and Mynach, just above their junction; but the best path is in front of the hotel, commanding beautiful views of the falls individually. In times of flood, when the channel is full, the stream presents a magnificent spectacle, descending amidst rocks and rich foliage in a succession of leaps, respectively 18, 60, 20, and 110 ft. high. The 4th descent is to the fall of the *Rheidol*, opposite the hotel, in which the cataract is 70 ft. in height.

On the hill opposite the bridge is an ancient fortification called *Castell fan Gwrach*.

About $1\frac{3}{4}$ m. on the Rhayader road is the little ch. of *Ysppyty Cynfyn* (from its name, formerly an hospitium), in the ch.-yd. of which are 3 large early British stones; and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. on the l., in a deep and gloomy defile, is the **Parson's Bridge**,

which the tourist should not neglect to visit. A broad plank with a hand-rail is thrown from rock to rock and secured by chains, while the Rheidol foams underneath.

From the Parson's Bridge the ravine may be ascended on the opposite side, and the path followed to **Pont Erwyd**.

The Devil's Bridge is the most convenient point from which to make an excursion to *Hafod*, from whence the visitor should arrange to return to Aberystwyth by the new road along the Ystwyth to Llanafan. For rather more than 3 m. the old Rhayader road is followed, through the *Arch* built by the late Col. Johnes to commemorate the jubilee year of the reign of George III. From hence a rapid descent for a mile will bring the tourist to *Hafod*, a princely demesne, now the property of — Waddingham, Esq., where the beauties of nature and art have been mingled in a rarely happy manner. The property, originally a wild and barren glen, came in 1783 into the hands of Col. Johnes, by whom the bleak hills were planted with 3,000,000 of trees, besides many acres that were sown with acorns; and with what success, the densely-wooded hills and valleys all round attest. A large Gothic mansion in the bad taste of the time was erected by Mr. Baldwin of Bath, in which Col. Johnes accumulated valuable treasures, including a library, famous for its collection of MSS., among which were illuminated MSS. of Froissart. In addition to these rarities, he printed at his private press translations of Froissart and Monstrelet's Chronicles, Joinville, Brocquière, and other rare and curious books. In 1807 the whole house, with nearly all that it contained, was burnt to the ground. Nothing daunted by this calamity, he set himself to repair the damage, had his house rebuilt by *Nash*, a great portion of whose work

still exists, and made a fresh collection of books and MSS. The Ystwyth flows through the grounds amidst constantly varying scenes, and numerous tributary brooks rush down the hill-sides in cascades of every height, which a judicious thinning, advantageous alike to the timber and the landscape, has of late years opened to view. The principal object of attraction in the grounds is the **Piran Fall**, which, although of no great magnitude, is very romantic, the visitor being made to approach it through a tunnel in the rock; there are also several other very pretty falls in the grounds. The **Church**, called in Welsh *Eglwys Newydd*, is charmingly placed on the hill-side, not far from the entrance lodge. It contains one of *Chantrey's* finest sculptures, a most exquisite monument to the memory of Miss Johnes, in white marble, representing the parents standing at the death-bed of the daughter.

There is a good painted window in the S.W. transept, which was brought to this country from Holland.

On a commanding wooded knoll, not far from the ch., is an *obelisk* erected by Mr. Johnes to the memory of a Duke of Bedford.

[The visitor will do well to leave *Hafod* by the southern entrance, near which the Ystwyth is crossed at the picturesque little hamlet of *Pont-rhyd-y-groes*. By this hamlet and *Crosswood*, or, as the Welsh would call it, *Trawscoed*, the mansion and park of the Earl of Lisburne, he can, if he choose, return to Aberystwyth. At *Crosswood* the Vaughan family have been settled for more than six centuries. A skeleton bridge across the river connects it with *Birchgrove*, usually a residence of one of the family. *Llidiarde* (G. W. Parry, Esq.), *Castle Hill* (J. Loxdale, Esq.), *Abermaide* (L. P. Pugh, Esq.), are valley residences along this route to

Aberystwyth; and over the hills to the rt. is *Nanteos* ("the Nightingale's Dell"), the seat of Col. Powell.]

On the opposite ascent are the famous **Lisburne** lead-mines, employing a large number of people. Two of the most important veins of ore in Cardiganshire, the Fronfraith and the Log-y-las, are worked here. The veins, from 4 to 6 ft. in thickness, run E. and W., sending out thinner veins from the main lodes, the traces of which are constantly to be found in the beds of the brooks and ravines on the sides of the hill.

From the Lisburne mines the tourist (who does not wish to proceed to Strata Florida) can return to Aberystwyth through Llanafan. A private road, open to visitors, has been formed by the mine-owners on the southern bank of the river, which joins the old Aberystwyth road at Pont Llanafan.

Many fine bits of river-scenery occur, particularly at *Craig Colommenod*, or the Doves' Rock, a very high perpendicular rock, appearing to stand out in the very course of the stream. At Pont Llanafan the river is crossed by a road, which leads on the l. to Ystrad Meurig and Tregaron. Some romantic scenery and a waterfall are to be found in a dingle, which accompanies this road a little to the W.

The Church of Llanafan contains an ancient silver Communion dish, presented by the Earls of Lisburne. In the neighbouring ch.-yd. of Gwnwns is a monumental stone to Prince Caradoc, who, stung with shame at his defeat by inferior forces, leaped headlong into the pool below the fall, still known as *Pell Caradoc*. From Llanafan, a ride of 10 m. will bring the traveller to Aberystwyth.

ROUTE 23.

CAERMARTHEN TO CARDIGAN, BY PENCADER.

For rly. from Caermarthen to PENCADER JUNCT., see Rte. 22.

From hence the Cardigan branch turns to the l., although at present it is only completed as far as

18 m. **§ Llandyssil** Stat. The village is charmingly situated on the Teifi, and a pretty **Church** has been built by *Wyatt*, consisting of nave, chancel, and side aisles. The N. aisle is separated from the nave by arches springing from columns of polished granite. The S. aisle has a squint connecting it with the chancel. The E. window represents the Crucifixion. The tower is ancient and massive, of the 13th cent. date, like Newport. Nicholson mentions that an inscribed stone existed here, marked VELVOR HLIM BRICHE. From Llandyssil an omnibus runs to Newcastle Emlyn and Cardigan, passing at 2 m. some lovely Teifi scenery, and a ch. on a site of an encampment to the rt., through, 4 m., the village of *Llangeler*. On l., 5½ m. is *Llysnewydd* (W. P. Lewes, Esq.), in the immediate neighbourhood of the Cenarth and Henllan Falls; the Henllan Bridge, which divides the counties, is a perfect gem for the painter; in both directions there are charming river views, reminding one of the Wye towards Builth; and on rt., 6 m., is *Dolhaidd* (Mrs. Elliott).

A little further on is *Llandyfriog* on the N. bank of the Teifi.

9 m. In the parish of Cenarth is the little town of **§ Newcastle**

Emlyn, one portion of which, *Atpar*, is situated in Cardiganshire and the remainder in Caermarthenshire. The Teifi meanders in a most capricious manner round the Castle Hill, which it almost surrounds as though by a broad natural moat.

Newcastle is supposed to have had a Roman origin, but took its name from the fortress (of which but little remains) erected by Sir Rhys ap Thomas. Although some little distance from the town, the views over the vale will amply repay the visitor.

The route from Newcastle Emlyn to Cardigan is along the rt. bank of the Teifi, one of the loveliest in the principality.

12 m. The Teifi is crossed at the picturesque bridge of **Cenarth**, famous for its salmon leap, at which 100 fish have been taken in a single morning. The Cenarth Bridge is a modification of the Edwards' type, a single span connecting the rocks of either side. The river above the bridge falls in a bold sheet over a ledge of rocks, and, together with the primitive little village and water-mill, forms a scene of rare beauty.

13 m. l. **Stradmore** (W. Bucke, Esq.), and rt. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Blaenpant**, the seat of W. O. Brigstocke, Esq. The high-road runs through some avenue-like rows of trees, with the Teifi running to the l. a little below the level of the road.

16 m. **Llechryd**, a pleasant little village and a good station for anglers. A large weir formerly existed here which precluded the salmon from ascending the river, and was therefore destroyed in 1844 by a large body of Rebecca rioters. Here the Teifi is crossed to the lovely grounds of **Castle Malgwyn** (Mrs. Gower), from whence a road leads to Cilgerran Castle.

18 m. on rt. is **Llangoedmore**, the

seat of John Vaughan, Esq.; and 2 m. on l. **Coedmore** (Thos. Lloyd, Esq., M.P.), in a most enchanting situation, almost opposite Cilgerran Castle.

19 m. $\frac{3}{4}$ **Cardigan** or Aberteifi, as it is called in Welsh (Rte. 25), does not possess very much to interest a stranger, though it is a convenient resting-place from which to visit the surrounding country. In the immediate locality were formerly kistvaens, the relics of a stone circle, and a huge stone, called Llech y Gawres, and supposed to have supported a cromlech. Although the county town, possessing nearly 5000 Inhab., it is rather behind-hand with the rest of the world; and from its inconvenient position as regards the rest of the county, much of the public business has been transferred to Aberaeron. But little remains of the **Castle**, which is surrounded by buildings, and itself converted into a modern dwelling; but the keep, a circular tower, still retains its underground passages and dungeons, which now serve the purposes of cellars. There are also two bastions and a connecting curtain, which is of later date, and probably Norman. There was a castle here in 1091, and Gilbert Marshall is said to have restored or strengthened it in the middle of the 13th centy. It underwent many assaults, particularly in the 12th century, at the hands of Hen. I. and the Welsh alternately, and changed owners at least a dozen times before Gilbert Marshall rebuilt it. Finally it was taken by the Parliamentary army under Gen. Laughton.

The **Church**, a spacious Perp. building, has been restored, and contains a good canopied stoup.

The **Priory** for Black Monks at Cardigan lay to the E. of the ch. towards the river.

The scenery from Cardigan to the mouth of the Teifi is very pretty,

particularly at the village of **St. Dogmael's**, 1 m., where the ruins, though scanty, still exist of the once famous Abbey of St. Dogmael's, which was only second in size and importance to Strata Florida. The stranger will do well to cross the river at Cardigan, and pursue the pathway to the ferry along the rt. bank, and after visiting St. Dogmael's, return by the opposite bank.

The remains consist of the W. and N. walls, the N. transept, and parts of buildings attached to the E. side. This ancient ch., originally cruciform, consisting of a nave and transepts, and an extensive choir, was finished in the time of Henry I., by Robert, son of Martin de Tours, who was seised of the lordship of Kemmaes in the reign of William II., and was also the founder of Newport Castle. In the N. wall are recesses, perhaps designed for sepulchral monuments, though this design does not seem to have been carried out. The N. transept has the same recesses on each side of the altar, and seems to have been used as a Lady Chapel. A staircase from the S. side and the domestic buildings leads within the wall to the remains of a pulpit, which had a window at its back, as at Beaulieu, Chester, and elsewhere. In the adjoining grounds are a coffin-lid and slab decorated with crosses, and an inscribed stone, known as the stone of Sagraus, marked with Ogham characters. A portion of the site of the abbey is now occupied with a neat E. E. ch. in very good taste; and the whole churchyard and grounds, which make one of the prettiest pictures imaginable, are a standing memorial of the late Rev. H. Vincent, to whose antiquarian care the remains are indebted for their preservation. There is some fine rock and cave scenery at the mouth of the Teifi, though the river above the bridge far exceeds it in beauty.

Cilgerran Castle may be visited by road or by water—the latter affording the greatest variety of scenery, and showing the ruins off to the best advantage. The road on the l. bank of the Teifi is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. The ruins of Cilgerran in themselves are considerable and interesting to the antiquary; but its principal beauty lies in its matchless situation, which is superior to anything in Wales. The landscape has all the accessories of rock, wood, and water. The river flows in a winding reach between lofty banks, on the one side soft and wooded, and on the other precipitous and rocky; while the whole pass is commanded by the frowning towers of the castle, which stand boldly out, as though part of the cliff on which they are built. The chief features of the ruins are 2 very massive round towers with curtains, and a gatehouse. Cilgerran was most probably one of the series of fortresses erected somewhat earlier than the time of Edward I., to overawe the natives of Cardiganshire, as though technically an Edwardian castle, it does not exhibit the usual symmetry of plan. It had to be adapted by its architect to the peninsular character of the site, fortified naturally to the N.E. and N.W. The masonry is of immense thickness, and not unlike the worst parts of Caerphilly in roughness. Full particulars of this fine ruin are given in the Report of the Cardigan Meeting of the Camb. Archaeologists in 1859, when it was carefully explained in detail by Mr. G. T. Clark.

The **Church**, was restored in good taste in 1855. In the churchyard is an inscribed stone with Ogham characters. The visitor will be struck with the appearance on the river, or before the doors of the fishermen, of the *coracle*, which is used on the Teifi to a great extent. In shape it is a kind of oval canoe, formed of basket-work covered with

sailcloth, about 4 ft. long and 3 ft. wide. Its extreme lightness enables the owner to carry it on his back, after having finished his fishing expedition.

Coracles are also used on the Usk, Wye, and Dee.

ROUTE 24.

FROM **CAERMARTHEN** TO **PEMBROKE**,
BY **WHITLAND** AND **TENBY**.

For route between Caermarthen and WHITLAND JUNCT., see Rte. 2.

From hence the Pembroke line turns to the S., through the rich vale of Llanddewi to

5 m. **§ Narberth** Stat., a small town placed on the slope of a hill, and on the bank of a little stream which joins the E. Cleddau. It was burnt by the Danes in 994. Population of the borough, which is a contributory to the Pembrokeshire group, 1266 at the last census.

Not much remains of the **Castle**, which was built by Sir Andrew Perrott on the introduction of the Normans into Pembrokeshire, and afterwards given by Henry VIII. to Sir Rhys ap Thomas. It was much injured during the Civil Wars, but was inhabited down to 1657, when a Captain Richard Castle lived there, and it formed a portion of the vast estates of the Barlows of Slebech, of which the Baron de Rutzen is the present owner.

Some good fossils can be obtained

in a quarry at **Robeston Wathen**, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Narberth, as also many species of ferns in the neighbourhood. The quarry is about 300 yards N.E. of the ch. down a rural lane. **Lampeter Ch.** (restored) is worth a visit on account of its curious monuments. There are also 2 camps above the ch.

A little to the N.W. are the ruins of **Llawhaden Castle**, on an eminence overlooking the Cleddau. The principal remains are a noble gateway, with a bold round arch flanked by 2 towers of great strength, with open buttresses. There are other octagonal towers and some trefoil lancet-headed windows. Towards the N.W. the walls are fallen into a ruinous heap, but to judge by what remains, the area enclosed within the moat must have been considerable. It was, in fact, the castellated episcopal residence of the Bp. of St. David's, which gave rise to the saying, "that when he was at St. David's he was a bishop—at Llawhaden a baron—and at Lamphey a country gentleman." This residence was spoilt by Bishop Barlow of St. David's, who, bent on enriching himself "per fas et nefas," stripped all the lead away. The church contains a monument of Bishop Hoton, 1389. A curious monumental stone is built into the E. wall of the ch. facing the river.

6 m. **Templeton**, a village formerly belonging to the Knights of Jerusalem at Slebech. Upon the hill between Narberth and Templeton to the l. of the road, near the Union, are some remains of earthworks, supposed to have been flung up by the early Flemish settlers. 1 m. on l. is **Grove**, formerly one of the chief seats of early (Druidic?) worship, and at **Molleston** are the remains of a cromlech. 3 m. l. **Eglwys Lwyd**, conspicuous from its lofty Pembrokeshire tower, stands on a bed of limestone, which has been quarried up to

the churchyard wall. The peasantry believe that the Ark rested on a place called *Blaengwaithnoch*, in the adjoining parish.

9 m. **Kilgetty** Stat. On l. is *Begelly*, the seat of Mrs. Penn. Near Kilgetty to the l. is a disparked deer-park, belonging to Pieton Castle. The appearance of pits in the neighbourhood of Begelly Common indicate that the traveller has come upon the coal or culm beds of the Pembrokehire basin, which is exceedingly contorted and disturbed.

12 m. **§ Saundersfoot** Stat., a small port, where a considerable amount of coal is shipped, and iron ore, principally from the Bonville's Court and Kilgetty mines. Near this is the ruin of Bonville Castle, preserving the name of an early Norm. settler, and consisting of an original tower with a later addition. Both are now used as a workshop. Not far from Saundersfoot, inland, is the ch. of St. Issell's, with its narrow defensive tower and its curious font. The date is Transitional, from Norm. to E. E. The shippings of coal and culm from Saundersfoot exhibit a steadily rising trade; and that which strikes the tourist is, that amidst such busy working and commercial life, the scenery is still diversified and beautiful; the coast is rocky and bold; while the cliffs are frequently wooded to their very edge. On the high ground above Saundersfoot is **Hên Castle** (C. R. Vickerman, Esq.).

[The pedestrian may proceed from hence to Kilgetty, Amroth, and **Marros**, the church-tower of which is a well-known landmark at sea. The exquisitely situated modern mansion of **Amroth Castle** (H. Fussell, Esq.), occupies the site of an ancient fortress over the residence of some of the princes of the South; and it was from

hence that the sons of Gruffydd ap Rhŷs marched, when they surprised Tenby. From this place, too, did the licentious Owain issue upon that wild raid which terminated in his carrying off the beautiful Nesta, Gerald de Windsor's wife, to his eyrie among the hills. The views from Amroth are among the finest in Wales.

"The coast about Amroth has undergone three distinct changes of level within recent geological periods, for by digging at low-water below the remains of the forests (sunken by the subsidence of land recorded in the Triads, and ascribed to the reign of Vortigern), then exposed, a sea-beach is laid bare. This shows that at one period the beach, now submerged, must have been level with the sea; at a second period it must have been elevated, to permit the growth of the forest; while a third period finds it again submerged."—*Mason*.

The road continues to **Greenbridge**, where the river vanishes through a cavern and reappears at **Pendine**, a small bathing-place to the rt. A guide and lights may be procured at the Greenbridge end, and a visit will repay the tourist. The Pendine sands are firm and dry for 5 miles, and it is a 4 miles' ride thence to Saundersfoot. From hence along the coast to Llaugharne (Rte. 2) is a pretty walk.]

15 m. **§ Tenby** now appears, rising like a gem from the sea, and affording a beautiful contrast to the bleak country behind.

Tenby is beautifully situated on the summit and sides of a peninsula, bounded by steep rocks which form a lofty basement to the town, overlooking Caermarthen Bay, into which a rocky promontory stretches out, crowned by the ruins of the Castle. Of late years it has extremely improved, and may now rank as one of the best and most fashionable watering-places in Wales, much

resorted to on account of its salubrity and the excellent bathing upon its fine, smooth, and extensive N. and S. sands. The season lasts from June to the end of Oct., though each year increases the number of winter residents, who are attracted by the mildness of the climate. Lodgings are plentiful, and afford good accommodation, the best being situated in the Esplanade, and the Norton, Croft, Lexden, and Belmont Terraces. There is also a fair fish-market for soles, salmon, turbot, brill, sewin, John Dorey, mullet, cod, crabs, lobsters, and oysters, though the best fish is sent inland by rail.

As a commercial town Tenby has declined, though in the reign of Henry VIII. it was a flourishing place, "very wealthy by merchandise." It contains a considerable part of its ancient walls, embattled and pierced with loopholes, together with flanking towers and one gate, defended by a semicircular bastion on arches, which was probably erected when the walls were repaired (1588), on the alarm of the approach of the Spanish Armada. Although the Welsh name *Dynbych y Pyscoed*—"the precipice of fishes"—implies that it was long ago a fishing-village, its origin is ascribed to the colony of Flemish clothiers, driven by inundations from their own coasts, who settled here in the reign of Henry I., and introduced a permanent spirit of commercial enterprise.

The **Castle**, which stands on the peninsula, served as an asylum for Henry of Richmond, while a youth under the protection of Jasper Earl of Pembroke, until he could escape thence to Brittany, which he did, by the help of Thomas White, a wealthy Tenby merchant. The only portions which remain are the keep or watch-tower, some parts of the walls, and the main entrance-gateway. The keep commands a

view of a line of similar watch-towers, at the Burrows, above Ivy Tower, on Windmill Hill, and the Ridgeway, overlooking the land approach to Tenby. Walks have been formed on the **Castle Hill**, and from this elevated terrace, which since 1864 has been surmounted with a statue of the late Prince Consort in Sicilian marble, on a massive base-ment of Pembrokeshire marble, a charming view is presented of Caermarthenshire ; its rocky headlands and sweeping bay ; of the Isle of Caldy ; and, further out to sea, that of Lundy ; while, directly opposite, the Worm's Head stands out in bold relief, with the embouchure of the Burry river and the smoke of Llanelly to the l. ; on the S. the scene is closed by Giltar Point.

At the extremity of the Castle Promontory rises **St. Catherine's Rock**, isolated by the sea at high water, but approachable across the sands at low tide. The beauty of the rock, on which were the ruins of a small chapel, has been sadly marred by the erection of a battery upon its summit to hold 100 men in time of war, and to be protected by 9 guns. Roman coins of the Lower Empire were discovered in digging the foundations. The inclined foliated strata have been perforated through and through by the action of the waves, forming a marine cavern. There are many others, arising from this cause, all along the coast, some of them extremely curious and picturesque.

The **Church**, conspicuous from far and near from its elevated spire, and one of the largest in Wales, was rebuilt, 1256, by Warren de Monchensey, Earl of Pembroke, and is chiefly in the E. E. and Perp. style. The principal objects of interest in it are the singular form of the W. doorway ; the chancel, which leads to an altar by a handsome flight of 10 steps, is deco-

rated with a wooden-roof, cradle-shaped, and furnished with curiously carved bosses. It is rich in sepulchral monuments, the most remarkable being a marble effigy of a skeleton in a canopied recess of about the 15th centy., and one to the memory of the Whites, rich merchants when Tenby was a flourishing port, and connected even to the present century with the county and borough magistracy. One of these was mayor when Henry of Richmond embarked, and received from him, when king, a lease of the crown lands in the vicinity as a reward for past services. This monument is of marble and bears two reclining figures, habited in the costume of their calling, and some bas-reliefs. There is also a kneeling figure in memory of Wm. Risan, 1633, and a tombstone to Walter Vaughan, of Dunraven Castle, of wrecking notoriety. Another curious monument commemorates Thomas ap Rhys of Scotsborough, and his wife, date 1610.

Slight remains of a Carmelite house exist opposite the ch. The town was originally fortified, as may be seen by the extant walls on S.W. and N.W., the mural towers, and the gateway. A strong high wall ran S.W. from the N. gate to a tower at the N.W. angle. The whole may be fairly traced by turning to the l., as you go to the rly. stat., at the first turn after the Gate-house-Hotel. Of late years several good houses have been built on the Esplanade south of the town, the majority of which are let furnished to weekly tenants. Tenby is a cheap and pleasant place of residence, particularly to those who take pleasure in scenery, geology, or natural history. The lover of marine fauna will find ample occupation by the sea-shore, for Tenby has been made famous by Mr. Gosse for the number and beauty of its actiniae and zoophytes; while the botanist

will find a goodly list of ferns in the lanes of Penally or Saundersfoot. The cliffs, which consist of carboniferous limestone, and form the southern border of the Pembroke-shire coal-field, have been much contorted in various places. There is a good local museum on the Castle Hill.

The **Ridgeway**, a high ground for several miles rising E. and W. between Tenby and Pembroke, consists of an uprise of old red sandstone flanked on each side by limestone. In the Marsh, which is crossed to reach the Ridgeway, grow the reed mace, the bur-reed, the great water plantain, and other aquatic plants.

From observations already noticed of the late Mr. Mason, the coast would seem to have undergone considerable changes of level, particularly in the neighbourhood of Amroth Castle; and it is evident that the sea, within recent times, occupied the valley leading to the village of St. Florence.

Tenby, which is one of the contributory boroughs of Pembroke-shire, and contains 3810 inhabitants, abounds with charming walks and excursions, both far and near. For walks the visitor may go 1. to *Saundersfoot*, by the cliffs; 2. to *Waterinch*, a charming little dell running from the seaside about 1 m. N. The return should be made by the N. sands, if the tide is out; 3. to *Lydstep* and *Gillar Point*, along the S. sands; 4. *Gumfreston*; 5. (boating) to *Caldy Island*.

The finest excursion is that to Pembroke by the coast. The passenger by rly. to Pembroke may get out at the various stations of *Penally*, *Manorbeer*, and *Lamphey*; but the only way of seeing the coast properly is to walk or drive, returning by the direct road.

Passing the Marsh Bridge over

the Ritec is, 1 m. on rt., **Hoyle's Mouth**, a curious cave, which runs into the limestone for 159 ft. The opening or mouth extends 24 ft. into the Hill, but Hoyle's Mouth is, in fact, a series of caves connected by narrow passages. It has been suggested that it may have been Shakespeare's ideal of the cave explored by Imogen in 'Cymbeline.' A good account of the contents of Hoyle's Mouth and of Little Hoyle will be found in Lowe's 'Little England beyond Wales,' pp. 5, 6, 22, 30.

2 m. the quiet little village of **Penally** Stat., with its church embowered in trees. It is a quasi-cross church, with a western tower, of Pembrokeshire type, possessing a nave and transept with a good stone-vaulted roof, and an altar-tomb to William de Haunton, 13th centy. There is a cross in the churchyard 6½ ft. high, and ornamented on each side with interlaced ribbon patterns. Penally, according to the legend, is one of the three places honoured by being the receptacle of St. Teilo's bones, the other two being Llandeilo and Llandaff. The view to the l. of **Caldy Island** is fine. This island is about 1 m. long by ½ m. broad, and connected with it at low water is the Isle of St. Margaret; on the former are a lighthouse and the residence of J. T. Hawksley, Esq., lord of the manor; and in the S. wall of the chapel is an inscribed stone to the memory of Catuoconus, possibly Cadogan, who gave lands to St. Teilo. The S., or uninhabited part of Caldy Island, is the summer haunt of puffins and other sea-birds, which are said never to overstep the boundary line of civilization, a certain stone wall. Boats can be obtained at Tenby for the excursion to Caldy, distant about 2 m.

3 m. l. the village of **Lydstep**, near which are beautiful *caves* on the [S. Wales.]

coast, only to be visited at certain times of the tide, duly mentioned in the 'Tenby Observer.' The whole of the coast scenery from **Proud Giltar**, with its sheer face of rock rising perpendicularly from the ocean, to Lydstey, with its hill and secluded bay, is very grand.

6 m. **Manorbeer Castle** (Stat.), = **Maenor Pyr**, the Manor of the Lords, of which the ruins are extensive and almost unaltered save by the destroying effects of time, and present a good example of a feudal fortress upon a commanding site, frowning down upon the coast below. A lofty embattled wall, pierced with loop-holes and retaining part of its ramparts within, surrounds the whole. The entrance gateway, originally approached by a barbican and draw-bridge, has lost one of its flanking towers. The moat remains, and there are grooves for two portcullises within the circular gate. The windows of the domestic apartments, as usual, face inwards. In the lodging part of the castle stands the great hall with a plain vaulted roof. Taken as a whole, "it seems to have been constructed by the family to whom it belonged, more with a view to convenience and safety, than with any vain object of an enormous display of feudal power."—*E. A. F.* On the E. of the court ran minor buildings; and a curious feature in the region of the kitchen are the circular chimney-shafts. On the opposite side of the old fishpond the original pigeon-house is still standing. Some years since, Manorbeer Castle was let to Mr. Cobb, a solicitor from Brecon, who has rendered habitable a portion of the building. Manorbeer was in 1146 the birthplace of Giraldd de Barri, better known as *Giraldus Cambrensis*, the Archdeacon of Brecon, who flourished in the latter part of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries, and was author of an Itinerary or De-

scription of Wales, compiled while attending Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, on his mission to preach the Crusades amongst the Welsh.

He has left a flaming description of his native place, its fish-ponds, its vineyards, its hazel-groves, and other attractions, rendering it in his estimation "the pleasantest spot in Wales," but contrasting greatly at present with the whitewashed ruins and village.

The **Church** is one of the most peculiar in the county. It is cruciform, and the tower is placed on the N. side, in the angle of the chancel and transept. "The principal notion conveyed is one of the wildest irregularity and incoherency among the several parts—the tower, the attached N. transept, the quaint N. aisle, are all thrown together apparently without any further connection." The original nave was shorter than the present by the width of the western arches, but of the present width, and lighted by long narrow Norm. windows. In the interior the arches are very curious, rising from square piers without capital or impost, and have seemingly been dug out of the thickness of the walls. The vaults of the nave, S. aisle, and transept are worth notice, as is also a tomb of one of the De Barris, a cross-legged effigy of a knight in mixed mail and plate-armour. The arms on the shield prove the name, and the date is considered by Mr. Haines to be that of Edward II.

On the cliffs to the l. of the bottom of the cove below the castle are a cromlech, the capstone of which had once 3 supporters, one of which has slipped, and now inclines to the S., and two or three remarkable fissures in the old red sandstone about 100 ft. in depth.

7 m. from Manorbeer, and 3 m. S. of Pembroke, whence it is most

easily approached, is **Stackpole Court**, the seat of the Earl of Cawdor; a large mansion built of dark-blue limestone, on a height overlooking a narrow valley, which is occupied by the waters of a creek running up from Broadhaven, which is here crossed by a bridge. The house contains a few good pictures, including two by *Albert Dürer*, a portrait of the first Lord Cawdor, by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*, and good three-quarter lengths of his father, and of the father's two brothers and two sisters. In the entrance hall are some muskets which were taken by the Pembrokehire militia under his Lordship's command from the French who landed at Fishguard. Here, too, is the *Hirlas Horn*, presented by the Earl of Richmond to Davydd ap Jevan, by whom he was entertained at Llwyn Davyd, in Cardiganshire, on his way to Bosworth Field. On the side next the lake is a noble terrace. The grounds and gardens are highly picturesque, and a peculiar feature is the luxuriant growth of the extensive woods which cover the sides of the valleys down to the water's edge. Near Stackpole are some huge upright stones, supposed by some antiquaries to have been set up by Harold, but there is no inscription upon them.

In the church of **Cheriton**, a little N. of Stackpole, which, like all the others on Lord Cawdor's estate, has been restored at his expense, is a recumbent figure of a cross-legged knight in armour lying beneath a sculptured canopy. It represents Sir Elidur de Stackpole, the reputed founder of the church, who assumed the cross at the appeal of Archbp. Baldwin. The original stone altar-slab of old red sandstone has an illegible inscription of (?) the 7th centy. The Stackpole estate is remarkable for its neat cottages.

On the coast near Stackpole is a fine *cave*. The cliffs in the neighbourhood and all the way to Linney

Head are remarkable for the extraordinarily contorted strata of the limestone; but the grandest scenery is exhibited near **St. Gowan's Head**, which rises to a height of 160 ft. above the sea, and is traversed by a narrow and deep fissure, hemmed in by a precipice of limestone on either side, accessible by a flight of rude steps, which it is said, cannot be counted twice without missing. The **Chapel** of St. Gowan is built across the chasm, consisting of a rude and dilapidated cell. That holy anchorite (who is supposed by some to be the knight Sir Gawaine, of Arthur's Round Table) spent his latter days in this remote cell, conferring by his prayers and sanctity of life a blessing on various objects around. Within the hermit's sanctum is "the wishing place," a fissure in the rock just large enough to hold one person. Whoever, seated in this rock, repeats his wish therein with full faith, turning round each time he utters it, will, before the year is out, have the desire accomplished. According to the tradition, St. Gowan was concealed in this recess, which closed over him to secure him from his enemies, and again opened when they had passed. A little below the chapel is St. Gowan's *well*, now almost dry, whither patients even of the upper classes sometimes repair to drink of the not very clear stream, supposed to be imbued with miraculous virtues. But the healing influence of the saint's prayers attaches itself most to a deposit of red clay occupying an angle of the cliff, derived from the decomposition of the rock. "The lame and blind pilgrims are still conveyed by their friends down the rude steps chiselled by the holy man, and, after being anointed with a poultice formed of the moist clay, are left there for several hours to bask under the summer's sun."—*Murchison*. The author of 'Records of the Rocks' considers the chapel

to have been posterior in date to the days of Giraldus Cambrensis, who notices the falcons, but not the chapel, of this cleft or fissure.

A little further to the W. is a still narrower and very deep fissure, rising up from the sea, but whose sides nearly meet above, called the **Huntsman's Leap**, from a story of a huntsman who leapt over it with his horse at full speed, and afterwards went home and died of fright.

Further to the W. is **Bosheston Mere**, a very small aperture, which, like a winding funnel, gradually widens below, until it spreads out into an extensive vault opening to the sea. During the prevalence of gales from the S.W., the sea, driven by wind and tide into the cave, is ejected through the upper hole in jets 40 or 50 ft. above the ground, like the spouts of the Geysers. The arches and fissures into which the rock is hollowed by the effects of the surge, as well as the contortions of the limestone strata, are well seen in **Bullslaughter Bay**, where there are some splendid caverns. Between this bay and the Stack Rocks is a magnificent black caldron (placed in the midst of a Danish Camp, or cliff castle, ascribed to Danish rovers, and stretching across the quasi-isthmus), formed of precipitous rock, with a noble natural arch opening out, through which the sea boils into the caldron. The **Stacks**, about $3\frac{3}{4}$ m. from St. Gowan's, are two lofty rocks detached from the coast from time immemorial, the favourite haunt of sea-fowl, which, especially in the months of June and July, resort thither in myriads to breed. They chiefly consist of a species of auk (*Alca torda*, Linn.), here called *eligug*, and are in such numbers that it is scarcely possible to distinguish the rock, so closely do the young birds sit upon it. The clouds of winged creatures hovering around this spot, and the discordant cries with which they fill the air, add

march to the singular effect of the scene. "During the summer the cliffs swarm with cormorants, razor-bills, guillemots, oyster-catchers, gulls, and puffins. The Cornish clough sometimes builds in the cliffs between the Stacks and St. Gowan's, and here, too, linger kestrels and sparrow-hawks, though the Peregrine falcon, which Henry II. used to procure from hence, are quite extinct."

—*Records of the Rocks.* Beyond the Stacks, the sea has worn the rocks into two remarkably lofty arches, leaning like flying buttresses against the cliffs, whose height must here exceed 150 ft. The strangely contorted strata near *Pennyholt*, and towards the Head of Man, near which is a perfect Danish camp, with a tumulus upon its outer rampart, are well worthy of inspection. There are some traces of buildings, said to be Roman, upon *Sheep Island* and at *Angle*.

From hence to Pembroke the road leaves the coast, passing on l. the Chapel of *Flimston*; and 2 m. *Warren Church* is placed on an eminence. $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. is *St. Twinnell's*, where there is an entrenchment on the same commanding ridge of hill; and 1 m. W. the site of one at *Castle Martin*, which gives its name to the hundred, celebrated for its breed of black cattle. Passing on the rt. *Orielton*, once the fine seat of the Owens, but now of M. A. Saurin, Esq., and *Henllan* and *Castleton*, the tourist arrives at $\frac{3}{4}$ *Pembroke*, 1 m. from *Stack Rocks*.

The old town of $\frac{3}{4}$ *Pembroke*, consisting mainly of one broad and ascending street, occupies a ridge projecting into one of the numerous pills or creeks branching out from the harbour of *Milford Haven*, "which about a mile beyond the town creeketh in so that it almost peninsulath the town, that standeth on a very main rokki ground."—*Leland.* It is an unassuming town,

though formerly, as the capital of the Palatinate, the chief in the county, containing, with *Pater*, above 15,450 Inhab.; but it is recommended to travellers by the objects of interest in its vicinity, and by its extensive ruined *Castle*, placed on the extremity of the ridge on which the town is built, and standing forth on a promontory washed on either side by the arms of a salt-water inlet, over both of which bridges are thrown.

It is not seen to advantage at low water, as the receding tide leaves bare unsightly banks. Its outer defences, and especially its main gateway, show in their breaches and shattered tower the effects of *Cromwell's* attack, in the memorable siege which he partly conducted in person. This castle, which is said to have been built by *Arnulf de Montgomery* (circa 1094), was very large and strong, and doubly warded; the outer ward is now a green meadow, hemmed in by walls and towers partly overgrown. The stone roof of one of them is shattered, and its walls fissured. Here *Leland* was shown the chamber where *Henry VII.* was born, 1456, marked by a chimney bearing his arms; but the room now usually pointed out as the place of his birth is in the inner court, on the l. and to the N. of the round tower. The Castle belonged to his uncle, *Jasper*, Earl of *Pembroke*, on whose attainder, in 1461, it was granted with the *Earldom* by *Edward IV.* to *William Lord Herbert*, of the *Pembroke* lineage. *Jasper* made several attempts to recover his stronghold, but failing in this, he withdrew with his nephew to *Brittany* in 1471, where they remained in exile for fourteen years. Within the inner court is the chapel, having pointed arches. A passage, now stopped up, led from this part of the castle to a very large cave, called the *Wogan* (Welsh, *Ogof*) in the limestone which forms the base-

ment. The communication was by a wooden staircase, now removed, but the cave may be entered from the outside. It probably served as a sallyport. Some have supposed that the garrison drew their supply of water from a spring or reservoir within it, and that in the siege before alluded to, the reduction of the place was principally effected by the enemy having found the cave, broken down the staircase, and thus cut off the supply of water. The principal building in the inner court is the keep, a circular tower 75 ft. high and 163 ft. in circumference, of 5 stages, gradually diminishing upwards, having walls 17 ft. thick below and 14 ft. above, the whole surmounted by a cone-shaped roof of masonry and still perfect. It is accessible by a winding stair, rendered difficult from the stones being broken, the only assistance being by a rope that dangles from the top, so that a false step would be serious. There is a narrow path outside the walls above the waterside, by which the Wogan cave can be reached. A legend states that it is connected by a subterranean passage with Hoyle's Mouth at Tenby, but unfortunately the interposition of the old red sandstone renders it impossible. The siege referred to occurred in 1648, when the revolted Parliamentary officers, Gen. Laugharne, with Powell and Poyer, mayor of the town and governor of the castle, having been defeated at the battle of St. Fagan's, retired hither, with the remnant of the force which had so ineffectually proclaimed the royal cause. They entered the castle early in May, 1648, and Cromwell in person, following close after them, appeared before the walls on May 21st. After a regular siege of six weeks, the fortress was at length gained for the Parliament, on the 11th of July, 1648. The three commanders, having been tried by a court-martial, were condemned to be shot, but the sentence was

executed upon one only, the choice being made by lots drawn by a young child. Two of the lots were marked "Life given by God," and the third, left blank, fell to Poyer, who was shot in Covent Garden, 1649.

The antiquary will find interest in visiting the remains of the **Priory Church of Monkton**, near the Castle, an ancient Norman edifice, possessing a vaulted nave of great length, and 2 blocked incipient geometrical windows. The choir is roofless, and is merely "a Dec. parochial chancel on a large scale."—"The ch. consists solely of the nave, intended for the parishioners, and the choir for the monks, with certain smaller adjuncts." Under the chancel arch, which is walled up, is a rich canopied tomb of the early 16th centy., worthy of examination. There are 2 churches in Pembroke, one of which, *St. Mary's*, is remarkable for its massive steeple.

The excursion to Stack Rocks, 7 m., and St. Gowan's Chapel, 13 m., can be undertaken from here.

2 m. N.W. of the town is **Pembroke Dock** or Pater, the terminus of the Tenby and Pembroke Rly.

It consists of a modern settlement (of above 10,000 Inhab.), principally artisans' houses, collected round the royal **Dockyard**, which was established in 1814 by the side of the Haven, having deep water close by at most times of the tide.

It occupies an area of 80 acres, surrounded by a high wall flanked by 2 martello towers. There are 12 building-slips for vessels of all sizes, including first-rates and war-steamers, covered with sheds protected by roofs of iron. There is also a dry-dock for the reception and repair of first-rates. Pembroke is essentially a building-yard, employing in ordinary about 1000 workmen, and the stores here are limited to enormous

stacks of timber of various kinds—oak, deal, and larch. The Nasmyth steam-hammer and saw-mill are particularly worth notice. As it is not a fitting-dock, the vessels when ready are towed round to Devonport or Portsmouth to be finished. The dock is defended by a fort to the W., which mounts 24 guns, and by the 2 martello towers, which each mount 3. Large barracks have also been erected on the hill above, and there is a hut-encampment at Hobbs Point.

The yard is shown on application, except at the dinner-time between 12 and 2.

A steam ferry plies several times a day to connect the Dock with the South Wales Rly., at **New Milford** (Rte. 2).

[On the return to Tenby the tourist should visit the ruins of **Lamphey** (Stat.) (Llan Ffydd), the Ch. of St. Faith, in the 14th and 15th centuries the palace of the Bp. of St. David's, but now enclosed within the fruit garden of **Lamphey Court**, the modern mansion of Charles Matthias, Esq. They consist of part of a chapel with a fine E. window of Perp. style, and the great hall adjoining, a long vaulted building, having a staircase outside, leading to what was probably the dormitory. Its walls are surmounted by a parapet raised upon an open arcade, like the castle of Swansea, and the palace of St. David's, and, like these, supposed to have been built by Bp. Gower, 1335, although some antiquaries consider that the arcade was the only portion of his work. A similar arcade is seen around an isolated tower now standing in the midst of the kitchen garden, shrouded with ivy; its use, except for ornament, is dubious. The whole edifice was surrounded by defensive walls; it stands in the bottom of a valley, and is thus sheltered from the sea wind which sweeps this

country, shrinking the growth of trees and giving a bare character to the landscape. The episcopal estate of Lamphey was alienated to the crown in the reign of Henry VIII., who bestowed it on Devereux, Viscount Hereford. His descendant, the Earl of Essex, the unfortunate favourite of Queen Elizabeth, spent many years of his youth at Lamphey Palace, as did also his kinsman, Walter Devereux, whose body was removed for burial to Staffordshire. *Lamphey Palace Chapel* is of Perp. work (circ. 1509–23). It has lately been restored without detriment to any of its characteristic features.

1 m. rt. **Hodgeston Church**, remarkable for a very slender steeple, a Dec. chancel of great beauty, containing some richly canopied sedilia, and a double piscina. It has been described as a miniature of Monkton Priory.

The road to Tenby runs for the greater part of the way along the elevated Ridgeway, commanding extensive views of the country on each side. At the 4th m. a détour can be made to Carew Castle, 2 m. l.

Carew, celebrated for its extensive ruined **Castle** (called locally "Carey Castle"), which lies to the N. of the road, placed on a slight eminence above one of the creeks of Milford Haven, which washes its base on two sides. In the village stands a very ancient and beautiful cross, of a single shaft, 14 ft. high, covered with Runic carvings and traces of an inscription no longer legible. A barbican or outwork, much shattered and shrouded with ivy, leads to the principal gate of the castle. The princes of South Wales are believed to have had a fortress here (Caerau = Carey), given by one of them, Rhys ap Tewdwr, with the dower and hand of his daughter Nesta, to the Norman baron Gerald de Windsor, Castellan of Pembroke in the reign of Henry I. It is pre-

bable that some part of Gerald's castle exists on either side of the great gateway, that being decidedly the oldest part remaining. Within it stood the chapel. On the opposite side of the court, facing the gateway, are the state apartments, originally approached by a broad flight of steps leading to the great banqueting hall. Here Henry of Richmond was received on his way to Bosworth by Sir Rhys ap Thomas, who then owned the castle and large estates in Caermarthen-shire. King Richard III., suspecting, not without cause, that Sir Rhys had been intriguing with Buckingham, sent commissioners to him to administer the oath of allegiance, and to demand his son as a hostage. The Welshman readily took the oath, but, instead of resigning his boy, contrived to satisfy the king with a letter, containing, among other assurances of loyalty, a voluntary protestation that, "should any one ill-affected to the state dare to land in this part of Wales, where I have command, he must make his entrance over my body." When the Earl of Richmond landed on Sir Rhys's domain, he is said to have quieted his conscience by laying down on his back, or placing himself under a bridge, while Richmond passed over. In the war between Charles I. and the Parliament, Carew was garrisoned for the king in 1644, and held out till after the surrender of Tenby.

The inner face of the W. side of the castle court is said to have been built by Sir Rhys himself in a rich form of late Perp.; it proclaims, by the style of its architecture, that it was erected during the reign of the Tudors. To the N. we have a façade of the Elizabethan age, with large windows and some circular oriels interspersed with them, running up the whole height. This is ascribed to Sir John Perrot. Part of the fabric wears the aspect of a mediæval fortress. It must have

been a structure of great magnificence, though now reduced to a mere shell, and its large, square, lantern-like windows are much dilapidated. The N. side was evidently built without any view to defence, but it is connected with the round flanking towers of an earlier period, which occupy the angles of the edifice. The great hall is remarkable for the lofty porch which forms the entrance, and is 104 ft. long. Over the W. gateway are the arms of England, of the Dukes of Lancaster, and the Carew family.

Carew **Church** is decorated with a good Perp. tower, square-headed belfry windows, diagonal buttresses, a polygonal turret, and a large W. window. Not far from Carew, to the N., is **Upton Castle**, which possesses a gateway with a double arch, somewhat resembling Llaw-haden, but on a smaller scale. **Upton Chapel** contains one or two curious monuments. Some little distance from Upton, but on the opposite bank, are the ruins of **Benton Castle**, which have a singularly picturesque appearance when viewed from the water. Between Carew and Tenby on rt. is

St. Florence (Stat.). The church is an excellent specimen of the local Pembrokeshire type.

1½ m. from Tenby is

Gumfreston Church (restored), a good specimen of a Pembrokeshire church, probably of the date 1300, with a baptistery and a beautifully decorated piscina, within which stands the sancte bell, 8 inches high, of good bronze metal, though now cracked. There is a stoup for holy water at the rt.-hand corner of the porch, and the tower is of 5 stories, and 60 ft. high to the top of the battlements. It is a capital specimen of the Pembrokeshire type of towers.

In the ch.-yard are some excellent chalybeate springs.

ROUTE 25.

FROM HAVERFORDWEST TO ABERYSTWYTH, BY ST. DAVID'S, FISHGUARD, CARDIGAN, AND ABERAERON.

The road from **‡ Haverfordwest** (Rte. 2) to **‡ St. David's** (16 m.), though generally passing through a bleak portion of Pembrokeshire, is pleasantly variegated with hill and dale, and ever and anon commands magnificent panoramas extending for many miles round. Twice a week in winter and three times in summer an omnibus drags its slow course over the hilly road, being the only connecting link between the ancient city of St. David's and modern civilisation. But Haverfordwest has good posting-houses and good livery stables, and the traveller who would visit St. David's enjoyably should charter a vehicle and not be tied to time. The nomenclature of the various villages and hamlets will remind the traveller that he is in the country colonised by the Flemings. "This tract was inhabited by the Flemings out of the Low Countries, who, by the permission of King Henrie the First, were planted here. These are distinctly known still from the Welsh; and so neere joined they are in society of the same language with Englishmen, who come nighest of any nation to the Low Dutch tongue, that this their little country is termed by the Britains Little England beyond Wales."

[8 m. from Haverfordwest, on the coast of St. Bride's Bay, is **Broadhaven**, a pleasant little bathing-place, possessing a fine extent of firm sand and splendid coast views, in which the barren and solitary islands of **Skokholm** and **Skomer** form prominent objects. Through the village runs a coast-road N. and S., by which the pedestrian can proceed from St. David's to Milford Haven, thus avoiding Haverfordwest altogether.

5 m. on rt., on the summit of a high ridge of ground, are the scanty ruins of **Keeston Castle**. A very extensive view is gained from hence over Haverfordwest and the Vale of Cleddau. The landscape on the rt. of the traveller consists of long ridges of elevated moor, which look somewhat dreary on a close inspection. The high grounds in front are the **Plumstone** and **Trefgarn Hills**, both remarkable for the number of remains of tumuli and camps as well as for the isolated masses of rock, appearing to the distant eye like some ruined town. Behind them the chain of the *Preseley Hills* rises to the height of 1754 ft.

8 m. on rt. **Roch Castle**, a conspicuous object in the scenery for miles around, from its commanding position, overlooking the bay of St. Bride's. This castle, which is of no great extent, although larger than a first view would warrant, consists of a picturesque tower built on the edge of a rocky ridge running E. and W. It was built in the 13th centy. by the Norman, Adam de Rupe (who also founded the priory of Pill, near Milford), no doubt with a view to securing the subjection of South Wales; and marked with Benton Castle, near Williamston, and opposite to Llawrenny, the limits of the jurisdiction of the Flemish province of Rhos. It experienced some rough treatment

in the civil wars, when it was garrisoned for the King under Capt. Francis Edwards. The view which here breaks upon the traveller, especially on a fine evening at sunset, is most impressive. The eye wanders over St. Bride's Bay, and to the rt. the whole country as far as St. David's: the principal feature in the scene being the jagged outline of St. David's Head in the far distance, that appears like a purple bank of clouds rising out of the plain.

9½ m. The road descends to the beach (from which it is separated by a bank of shingle washed up by the sea, and something resembling the Chesil Beach, near Weymouth), and crosses the **Newgal** brook, the boundary between the hundreds of Rhos and Dewisland. Tradition asserts that a large tract of country lies buried beneath the waves and the sands of Newgal, and is borne out by the fact that traces of a submarine forest have been detected. Giraldus Cambrensis mentions the appearance of trunks of trees "standing in the midst of the sea with very black earth, and several old blocks like ebony; so that it did not appear like the sea-shore, but rather resembled a grove." (See 'Itin. Cambr.' i. 13.)

Ascending the steep hill on the opposite side, the tourist passes on l., 11 m., a tumulus, the only remains of **Poyntz Castle**, or *Castrum Pontii*, once one of the principal granges belonging to St. David's.

13 m. The beautiful little village of **Solva**, near the mouth of the river Solva or Solfach, is placed in such a narrow creek that its situation is not seen or expected until the road fairly tumbles into it. To the rt. of the road, and divided from it by the bed of the river, is **Whitchurch Hill**, on the side of which **Lower Solva** is prettily built,

with quaint little walled gardens. The windings of the river between the steep banks are highly romantic, but detrimental to the navigation, which is rendered dangerous by a pyramidal rock standing at the very centre of its mouth. Many visitors come during the summer for the sake of the bracing air.

From Solva a walk of 3 m., past the residence of J. D. Harries, Esq., to the l., will bring the traveller to, 16 m., the city of **St. David's**, placed in a corner of Great Britain apparently remarkable for nothing but its desolate appearance and extreme isolation. "*Hic etenim angulus est supra mare Hibernicum remotissimus; terra saxosa, sterilis, et infœcunda; nec sylvis vestita nec fluminibus distincta nec pratis ornata; ventis solum et procellis semper exposita.*" This description of old Giraldus will apply with almost equal effect in the present day; nevertheless, the very desolation of the country adds to the feeling of interest with which the visitor examines a city so replete with noble associations. St. David's itself is a mere village in the ferny valley of the Alan, about 1 mile from the sea, consisting of one principal street and two cross ones, at the junction of which stands an ancient cross, restored by Bishop Thirlwall in 1873; but its principal attractions are the grand old **Cathedral** and the ruins of the college and bishop's palace hard by. The Dinas (or City of St. David's) was probably never more than a straggling village along the hill above the cathedral to the S. and E. None of these buildings, save the top of the great tower, are visible from any portion of the village, until the visitor is close upon them; for, like the sister church of Llandaff, the cathedral is placed in a deep hollow. There is, however, between the two a great difference.

"The effect of Llandaff is (or was till its restoration) a mixture of that

of a ruined abbey and that of an ordinary parish church. St. David's, standing erect amidst desolation, alike in its fabric and its establishment, decayed, but not dead; neglected, but never entirely forsaken,—still remaining in a corner of the world, with its services uninterrupted in the coldest times, its ecclesiastical establishment entirely untouched,—is, more than any other spot, a link between the present and the past; nowhere has the present so firm and true a hold on the past."—*Jones and Freeman's 'St. David's.'*

The best points of view from which the whole group of the cathedral buildings is commanded, are the gate in the road called the "Popples," opening on the ch.-yd. steps W. of the tower-gate, and the hill-side, N.E. of the cathedral, between it and the village.

The usual entrance into the close is that leading from the town on the S.E. through a gateway, above which is an octagon tower, formerly used as a consistory court and record office, though, perhaps, as suggested by 'Jones and Freeman,' originally designed for a bell-tower; but the aspect of the cathedral from this gate is very far inferior to the approach from the N.E., which includes in the view the ruins of the chapel and the chapterhouse.

In shape the church may be briefly described as cruciform, with the addition of 3 chapels of inferior height to the E. end of the choir, while, on the E. face of the N. transept is a lofty building of 3 stages containing the chapter-house. The dimensions are within, from E. to W., 290 ft., while those of the transepts are 120 ft. Externally, the principal features are the W. front (restored at the end of the last centy., and again in the last decade as a memorial of Bishop Thirlwall), and the nave and aisles, of which the roof has been lowered; they contain 2 doorways, that of the

N. being Norm., and the southern one ornamented with sculpture representing the Root of Jesse, within an outer porch. The tower, which gives the idea of being rather top-heavy, consists of three stages, the lowest being Norm., and scarcely rising above the level of the original roof: the middle stage is Dec., while the uppermost is Perp. It is 124 ft. in height. The S. transept contains 4 Perp. windows in 2 stages. "The interposition of such a closed chapel as that of Bishop Vaughan between the presbytery and the ambulatory connecting the aisles is probably unique, and is at any rate without parallel in this country."—*King's 'Cathedrals.'* The walls of the choir are embattled, and rise with a beautiful though melancholy effect from the roofless and ivy-covered ruins of the Lady Chapel and chantries on each side.

On entering the cathedral a view is gained, in its way probably unequalled in any ch. in Great Britain, owing to the extreme richness of decoration and numberless minutiae of the nave (consisting of 6 bays), which is transitional between Romanesque and Gothic, and is unlike that of any other ch. in this country. "From the extreme W. end the eye ranges through the nave to the closed choir-screen of Bp. Gower. The E. tower arch breaks the line of roof, and beyond is seen the coloured ceiling of the presbytery, with the E. end of the ch. in the far distance, banded with stone of differing tints, and rich with mosaic and stained glass." The visitor should observe the great span of the pier arches, which are alternately round and octagonal, and in particular the almost classical grace of the foliage of the two shafts attached to the first pair of piers from the E. Those between the N. aisle excite feelings of some apprehension as to their stability, from the extreme bulging—the N. wall also has a con-

siderable outward leaning. Observe, too, the peculiarity of the triforium. The arches of the windows, below which the triforium range is formed, are enriched with chevrons, while from between them rise the exquisite vaulting shafts of the ceiling. The triforium arches themselves are plain and pointed, without shafts.

The roof, in itself only a flat ceiling of timber laid upon the walls, is probably unique in its singularity and extreme richness, produced by the use of numbers of vast pendants. "Both the arches themselves, and the straight lines which join the principal panels, drip with minute foliations like lacework, in a style of almost Arabian gorgeousness." Though really only in seeming, the ceiling has the appearance of being supported by a system of segmental arches, effecting a threefold longitudinal division of roof, and crossed by a similar range springing from the walls. It was probably constructed towards the end of the 15th cent. The interior of the tower consists of 4 noble arches, of which the western is round, and very richly adorned, while the others are pointed. A decorated arcade rises, each arch forming a small triforium.

The style of the interior of the transepts, nave, choir, and presbytery, is Transitional Romanesque, with pointed arches and foliage of the Somersetshire type.

The presbytery consists of 4 bays, and contains massive piers supporting pointed arches with mouldings, and at the E. end an extremely rich triplet of Norm. and E. E. intermixed with a profusion of rich Romanesque moulding; below it is a rich string, and above it a large Perp. window. To the E. of the choir, and a little on the N. side of it, is Bp. Vaughan's or Trinity Chapel, which, together with one to the E. of that again, have their roofs whole, while all the other

chapels are open to the day. The former is a fine specimen of late Perp., and contains an exquisite fan-tracery roof. The Lady Chapel, the work of Bishop Martin, although unfortunately roofless, is of Transition from E. E. to Dec., though containing some Perp. windows. Attached to the N. transept is a peculiar-looking building, of which the lowest stage, formerly St. Thomas's chapel, is now used as a chapter-house.

The principal objects of interest in the cathedral are the beautiful stone rood-screen, the work of Bp. Gower, the central division of which forms the entrance to the choir, while those on either side contain tombs, that of Gower himself being on the extreme rt.; the grotesque carvings of the stalls and unique miserere seats in the choir (note the cowed fox offering the wafer to a goose with a human head and equivocal cap); the tomb of the Earl of Richmond, father of Hen. VII.; and the shrine of St. David, within the third arch from the E. on N. side of the presbytery, in former days an attraction to legions of devoted pilgrims, including several kings and princes. Giraldus Cambrensis, the interesting old topographer of S. Wales, is also said to be buried here. "The glass in the upper tier of E. lights above the altar, and the mosaics which fill up the closed windows under them, are the gifts of the Rev. W. Lucy, rector of Hampton Lucy in Warwickshire, as memorials of his ancestor, who was Bp. of St. David's (1660-77). The glass is by *Hardman*, the mosaics are by *Salviati*, from cartoons by *Mr. Powell* of Hardman's establishment at Birmingham. The subjects are—In the central window the Crucifixion, with figures of St. John and the Virgin, and the Magdalen kneeling under the cross. In the side windows are *Ecclesia* and *Synagoga*, the Christian and Mosaic Church, in full-length figures. In

a predella beneath the central mosaic is a representation of the Brazen Serpent, with figures of Moses and Aaron. Below the others are St. David distributing alms to the poor, and St. David addressing the Synod of Llanddewi Brefi. Each of the larger subjects has a rich architectural canopy, and a broad border of a very beautiful design surrounds the whole." The tints and gold of the mosaics harmonise well with the colour of the surrounding stone-work. Some of the encaustic tiles of the presbytery give the three "luces," the old coat of the bishop, whose descendant has done so much towards beautifying the cathedral. Mr. Lucy died in 1874.

The history of the see commences about the end of the 6th centy., when St. David (the Welsh call him Dewi), who had succeeded the holy Dubricius as Archbishop at Caerleon, is said to have removed the see to the wilds of Menevia; though by some it is supposed that St. Patrick established a monastery in still earlier times. Amongst the pupils attracted by St. David's learning and piety were St. Aidan, St. Teilo, and Paternus, the patron saint of Llanbadarn. It was about this time that the Pelagian heresy was checked by the preaching of St. David at the great synod held at Llanddewi Brefi (Rte. 22). "If it be impossible to tread the 'barren rocks of Iona' without emotion, the old land of St. David, whence came the traditions and teaching which St. Columkilla carried northwards, may be regarded at least with an equal interest."—*King*. The present cathedral was built by Bp. Peter de Leia in 1176-98, after it had "beene often destroyed in former times by Danes and other pyrats," although in successive years it became much dilapidated, at one time by the fall of the tower, in 1220, which crushed the choir and transepts, and at another by an earthquake, in 1248,

to which the very insecure-looking bulging of the N. wall of the nave may be attributed. At the hands of different prelates it underwent different degrees of enlargement and decoration, according to the devotion or architectural capabilities of each, though, of all the long line of bishops, Gower, who flourished in the 14th centy., did more to adorn it than any other. The Lady Chapel was the work of Bishop Martyn (1290-1328). In contrast with these stands Bp. Barlow, in 1536, who, not content with alienating much of the Church property, is said to have stripped the lead off the Bishop's Palace as well as from the castle at Llawhaden (Rte. 24), that he might provide portions for his five daughters, who married five bishops.

Careful restorations were carried on some years ago in the interior by *Mr. Butterfield*; but the great work of repair was undertaken in 1863, at which time the state of the tower had excited most serious apprehensions. The old and new sides had begun to separate, and from the very top to the bottom a great crack prevailed; so that not only was the tower in danger of falling, but portions of the nave and the pillars of the arches were thrown out of the perpendicular. The work was undertaken by *Sir G. G. Scott*. The total cost has exceeded 39,000*l.*, of which 10,000*l.* was provided by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, 4900*l.* by the chapter, and the 25,000*l.* by contributions from individuals.

The difficulties of the tower restoration were great, but were ingeniously overcome by *Mr. Clear*, the clerk of the works, by fixing bracings inside and out, with massive ties of iron, and bolting the walls together, after which he screwed the sides of the tower 3 in. closer. He then constructed strong foundations of timber, on which the tower completely rested, while the foundations beneath were strengthened and the

two western piers entirely removed and rebuilt.

In one of the graves disturbed during the operations a skeleton was found, with the head of a pastoral staff, a chalice of thin silver, and a gold ring with an amethyst set in it. It is believed to have been the tomb of Bishop Carew, d. 1280, who was buried, according to Leland, "prope altare crucifixi." Another grave contained a pastoral staff-head, a ring, some coins, and a paten. This was supposed to be the grave of Bishop Beck, 1293. Bishop Gower's remains were also found, enclosed in a leaden coffin and containing an ornamental pastoral staff-head of brass.

Opposite the E. end of the Lady Chapel is the spring which tradition says St. David bade break forth for the service of his disciples, and which was afterwards known as **St. Mary's Well**. Other legends attached to it may be read in King's 'Welsh Cathedrals.' It has survived the draining of the hill behind it.

Adjoining, and on the N. side of the cathedral, are the picturesque ruins of **St. Mary's College**, or Chantry, founded in 1377 by Bp. Houghton. They are even in a more dilapidated state than the chapels before mentioned, little being left but a rather elegant tower and chapel, with some good E. Perp. windows, which was built over a crypt. The E. wall of a cloister attached to the College of St. Mary connects that building with the transept. Divided from the rest of the cathedral buildings by the river Alan are the remains of the **Bishop's Palace**, splendid in its very desolation, and offering examples of richly decorated domestic architecture, almost unique. This palace, which is of quadrangular form, is one of the masterpieces of Bp. Gower. The visitor will at once be struck by the beautiful arcade and parapet that runs round the whole building.

The only other examples of this delicate ornament are Swansea Castle (Rte. 2) and Lamphey Court (Rte. 24). The masonry, too, is very peculiar. The parapet consists of a series of open arches resting on octagonal shafts, surmounted, though now only visible in a few places, by a corbel-table, and a battlement. On the S. side is the great hall, entered by a richly decorated porch, over which are two niches containing statues, supposed to represent Edw. II. and Queen Philippa. This window is popularly, though incorrectly called "King John's Hall."

At the E. end is a rose window (the four-leaved flower so frequent in Gower's work ornamenting the outer moulding) of singular beauty and design, the tracery of which forms a complete wheel with spokes radiating from a central quatrefoiled circle.

At the western extremity of the hall stands the chapel, marked by an elegant bell-turret, having a broach spire. All the buildings of the palace are raised on a series of vaults, as a precaution against the damps of the Alan valley. The palace in its ruins is a noble specimen of a domestic abode of hospitality and religion, where a princely prelate housed and entertained pilgrims of all ranks, and was prepared to welcome royalty itself. The whole of the palace, cathedral, and other buildings stand within the close, which was defended by a wall a mile in circumference.

The lover of rock scenery will be amply gratified by exploring the numberless little creeks and bays with which the coast abounds.

At **Caerfai**, one of these bays, a little to the S., the purple sandstone quarries of which furnished the stone for building the cathedral, and represent the oldest sedimentary rock known to geologists, are the ruins of the **Nun's Chapel**, dedicated

to St. Nonita, or Non, the mother of St. David, on the spot where, according to tradition, the saint was born. A second chapel, to St. Justinian (Capel Stinan), existed on the coast at *Porthstinian*, about 2 m. to the W., where travellers bound to the opposite **Isle of Ramsey** were wont to perform their devotions. This island is separated from the mainland by a strait 1 m. in breadth, is about 2 m. long by 1 m. broad, and is terminated at each end by rugged and precipitous hills which contribute much to the savage effect of the scenery. Nevertheless it is by no means barren, but possesses a productive farm and good land. Up to the last centy. there were remains of two chapels, one dedicated to St. Justinian, and the other to St. Dyfanog; the first to the S. and the other to the N. of the island. Multitudes of sea-birds breed here, insomuch that different localities amongst the rocks are named *the Organ* and *the Choir*, from the noise of the birds frequenting the cliffs.

At the S. end of the island are two very small ones, named respectively *Ynys Beri*, or the Kite's Island, and *Ynys y Cantor*, or the Precentor's Island.

To the W. lie a group of insulated and dangerous rocks, known as the **Bishop and his Clerks**, "who preache deadly doctrine to their winter audience, such poor seafaring men as are forcyd thether by tempest; onlie in one thing they are to be commended, they keepe residence better than the rest of the canons of that see are wont to do."—*Fenton*.

The "deadly doctrine" was fearfully illustrated in Feb. 1860, by the wreck of the *Nimrod* steamer, when all perished.

A little N. of *Porthstinian*, and about 2 m. N.W. of St. David's, is **Whitesand Bay**, the eastern part of which is a firm sandy beach of half a mile long, reaching up to the base

of Carn Llidi, while at the N. extremity is the inlet of **Port-melgan**, sheltered by St. David's Head. Here was the traditional site of Caermorfa where Gildas preached. Underneath the burrows which border this bay, traces of walls have occasionally been found in places where the sand has blown away. A legend is current amongst the natives that they belong to the primitive ch. founded here prior to the erection of the cathedral; but almost all antiquaries are agreed as to this being the locality of the ancient Roman station *Menapia*. To corroborate this opinion, this spot has been proved to have been the terminus of two great lines of road, one being the *Via Julia*, extending from *Aqua Solis* (Bath); and the other being the *Via Flandrica*, or "Fford Fleming," which is supposed to have connected *Loventium* with *Menapia*. It is, however, considered by other antiquaries to have been an early British road made use of by the Romans. Apart from these memorials of a departed people, the great number of antiquities in this immediate neighbourhood all prove the importance in which this country was formerly held.

There is a remarkable earthwork called **Penllan** just $\frac{1}{4}$ m. from the cathedral, overlooking the river Alan, popularly ascribed to Boia, a Celtic chieftain, who used it for the purpose of persecuting St. David and his monastery. Another, called **Parc-y-Castell**, lies $\frac{1}{4}$ m. apart from Penllan, and Leland calls it "Cair-boias Castel."

Rising out from the plain in an abrupt precipice of 100 ft. is **St. David's Head**, a bluff peninsula, cut off by an ancient stone fortification called **Clawdd y Milwyr**, or the fence of the soldiers, a rampart of stones from 75 to 100 ft. broad. It is carried across from cliff to cliff, a distance from N. to S. of 200 ft. A

similar rampart occurs at *Dinas*, a few miles from Fishguard. The whole of the range of cliffs looking northward is exceedingly fine, and presents an appearance of much greater height than really belongs to it, in consequence of the monotony of the country inland. Close to the head, and in fact forming part of the sea-range, is **Carn Llidi** (592 ft.), from the summit of which an extensive and beautiful view is gained of the whole promontory of Dewisland (or David's Land), Strumble Head, with the Caernarvonshire hills to the N.; and in clear weather the Wexford and Wicklow mountains are visible.

At the foot of Carn Llidi is a *rocking-stone*, now dismounted; there is also a cromlech on the Head, towards the N.E., with a capstone 11 ft. 9 in. in length, and 9 ft. 9 in. in breadth, besides several "meinihirion" in the neighbourhood. Those, however, who wish to study minutely the antiquities of St. David's will do well to obtain Jones and Freeman's splendid work, to which the writer of this notice is thus indebted.

The road to Fishguard passes through a desolate and bleak country, though relieved at intervals by peeps of St. George's Channel on the l. hand and the Preseley mountains on the rt.; the principal interest of the route, however, lies in the numerous Early British remains so profusely scattered about.

17½ m. on rt. **Dowrog Pool**, a small tarn about 1 m. in circumference, affording good wild-fowl shooting.

19 m. on l. is **Penberry**, a noble headland, which towards the sea descends in a sheer precipice called Trwyn-ddualt. Near its N. extremity a cromlech existed within the last fifty-years. From hence the road follows for a time the course of the

Fford Fleming or Via Flandrica, 21 m. on l., to Llanrian, passing by **Trevaccoon** (G. Harries, Esq.), 24 m. The populous village about 1½ m. to l. is **Trevine**, the site of a grange or palace belonging to the Bishops of St. David's, of which a vault still remains. Near it on the farm of Longhouse is one of the most perfect cromlechs in S. Wales, consisting of 6 upright stones, on 3 of which, which are 5½ ft. high, rests a very thick capstone, 16 ft. in length, thus forming a chamber open only on the N. side. It has been conjectured that this cromlech was originally surrounded by a circle. On the coast is

Abercastell, a little harbour frequented by coasters. At 25½ m. there are two other cromlechs dismounted in a field l. of the road.

26 m. l. **Mathry** ch. and village.

30½ m. the road joins the direct turnpike from Haverfordwest to Fishguard. [At 8 m. is **Ford**, where the Roman road or Via Flandrica crosses the turnpike; and 3 m. to l. is the station of *Ad Vicesimum*, about 1 m. to the N.E. of *Ambleston* Ch. The scenery at **St. Dogmael's** is very picturesque.

10 m. are the **Treffgarn** rocks, from whence a very extensive view is gained. 14½ m. Haverfordwest.]

32 m. ♂ **Fishguard**. It is a pretty little town of 1851 Inhab., divided into two distinct portions, the former of which, or the upper town, occupies the cliffs, while the lower town constitutes the seaport and harbour. Altogether it is one of the most picturesque places on the whole coast, and offers many attractions to the visitor in quest of scenery. The harbour is formed at the mouth of the little river Gwayn, which issues from a narrow and beautifully wooded glen

directly into Fishguard Bay, in which a large number of vessels can ride safely at anchor in 6 fathoms of water, no matter how bad the weather is outside. Indeed, this bay is almost the only refuge on the coast between Milford Haven and the Bay of Cardigan, and from this cause, as well as its proximity to the Irish coast, which in clear weather is distinctly visible, Fishguard was originally selected to be the terminus of the South Wales Railway before it was finally fixed at Milford. Beyond its picturesque situation the town presents nothing remarkable. The opposite headland, 1 m. from the town, is dotted with the white cottages of **Goodwick**, which from its fine sands and lovely situation offers many charms to enjoy sea-bathing in a quiet retired spot. Goodwick is becoming more and more the resort of visitors who appreciate the sea-coast without the inducements of fashion, and parades and bands, and has several good houses and villas. The line of coast at the back of Goodwick, with its many indentations and headlands, forms **Strumble Head**, the southern boundary of Cardigan Bay. The inland district, known as **Pencaer**, is wild and mountainous, though containing a great many early British stones and cromlechs. About 3 m. from Goodwick, following the cliffs, is **Carreg-wastad Point**, in the parish of Llanwnda, a spot historically celebrated for the landing of the French in 1797. A body of men, 1400 in number, under the command of General Tate, were disembarked at this point and proceeded inland as far as Fishguard, committing ravages in their career. At this juncture, however, they were met by a body of yeomanry under Lord Cawdor, the Lord-Lieutenant of the county, and, being by some misapprehension deserted by the ships which had left

the coast, were obliged to surrender unconditionally, and lodged in the gaols of Pembroke, Haverfordwest, and others in the district. A large number of Welshwomen, in their characteristic red petticoats, viewed the transaction from the neighbouring hills, thus giving the enemy the notion that they were surrounded by much larger forces than really were present. It may be mentioned that the parish of Llanwnda was the scene of the clerical labours of the historian and topographer, Giraldus Cambrensis.

[A very pleasant excursion of 11 m. may be made from Fishguard to the Preseley mountains, which run like a backbone through Pembrokeshire from E. to W., dividing the county into two portions. The route lies through or alongside of the valley of the Gwayn to **New Inn**, from whence a steep walk will bring the tourist to the summit of **Moel-Cwm-Cerwyn** (1700 ft.), the Bald Hollow of the Wash-tub, so called from the curious crater-like shape of the top of the mountain. The Preseley Hills, taken as a range about 7 m. long, form a connected hill-chain, with some outliers. The principal eminences are—on the E. Moel-Trigarn and Carn-menyn; on the W. Bwlch-gwynt and Foel Eryr; while Moel Cwm-Cerwyn is in the centre. Lying in the centre of the county, these bleak hills are crossed by roads running N. and S. from Haverfordwest and Narberth to Cardigan, as well as by the Via Flandrica, which was carried along the S. flank. The view from the summit of any of these hills in clear weather is grand, comprising the whole of Pembrokeshire and parts of Cardiganshire and Caermarthenshire, besides a vast expanse of sea, terminated on the W. by the coast of Ireland. The tourist who determines upon the excursion should be very particular as to the state of the weather, as fre-

quently, after all his exertions, the hills become enveloped in thick mist, rendering sight-seeing out of the question. Throughout the whole of the range the remains of cromlechs, meini-herion, camps and tumuli are profusely scattered, proving the former importance of this part of Pembrokeshire.

A very fine British urn was dug out of a tumulus by the late Mr. Fenton, but it was unfortunately broken by the carelessness of the workmen.]

The road to Newport is carried down a steep descent to the old town, crossing the Gwayn. On rt. is *Glynammel*, the seat of John Worthington, Esq., but still remembered as the abode of the eccentric and learned antiquary and historian of Pembrokeshire, John Fenton.

36 m. on l. is **Dinas Head**, a fine promontory forming a conspicuous landmark at sea. A broad intrenchment separates it from the mainland.

On rt. is the steep outlying range of the Preseley Hills, the most northerly point terminating in **Carn Englyr**, a peculiar volcanic-looking hill which rises 1500 ft., directly at the back of Newport.

[Another and prettier route from Fishguard to Newport runs along the valley of the Gwayn past *Glynhamel* and *Llanllawer Court* to the left, an old seat of the Gwynne family, with a modern ch. on the hill above (Rev. T. G. Mortimer). After crossing a bridge over the Gwayn, the tourist passes a mile further **Llanllewedog** ch., with a venerable yew in ch.-yd.: and still further on the rt. of the road, **Pont-Vaen** (Mr. Feeting), where is also a ch. Several tributaries descend the well-wooded slopes to the rt. of the valley, and assist in swelling the winding stream of the Gwayn. The

hill above the latter part of this road is **Mynydd Cilcyffeth**, under the shadow of the Preseley Mountains; and when towards Newport the route goes over higher and more barren grounds, it skirts the l. side of the *Carn Englyr*.]

39 m. **§ Newport**, a pleasantly situated little town, which in former times is said to have monopolised most of the trade of the county. Owing, however, to a great mortality occasioned by a plague, the market was removed to Fishguard, which henceforth flourished at the expense of its neighbour. It possesses a small harbour at the mouth of the river Nevern, but the navigation is impeded by a bar. Its only attraction is the **Castle**, founded by William, son of Martin of Tours (circ. 1094 A.D.), who rechristened the old town of Trefdraeth Novoburgus, or Newport. It was long held by the Martins, his descendants. It overlooks the town and bay, and was, until very recently, a picturesque ruin; but has now, however, been incorporated with a modern dwelling-house by the lord of the manor, the late Sir T. D. Lloyd, Bart., lineal heir to the Barony of Cemmaes, through the Martins above mentioned. The principal feature in it is a very elegant tower of the 13th centy. rising from a square base into a circular form, and surmounted by an upper polygonal story of later date. On the N. side is a vaulted chamber, with a central E. Dec. pier, from which spring 8 ribs. The ch., which is said to be also of the 13th centy., and has a characteristic embattled tower, has been modernised in the vilest *churchwarden* form. In a field to the S.E. of the town, on the *Cwm Gloyne* estate (M. W. Ll. Owen, Esq.), is the **Newport cromlech**. Poised on two out of four upright stones, whilst the other pair cannot even be called secondary props, the capstone mea-

sures 10 ft. in length by nearly 9 ft., and is from 3 ft. to $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. thick. The chamber measures $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

39 m. on l. *Llwyngwair*, the finely-wooded seat of J. B. Bowen, Esq., a little above which, to the N., is *Berry House*. Near Newport are also *Cwmgloynne*, and the ancient seat of the antiquary, George Owen, *Henllys*.

[The traveller who wishes to take Cilgerran Castle on his way to Cardigan should pursue the straight road through *Eglwys Wrrw*, and by *Croft House*, the distance being about 9 m. This is the road from Haverfordwest to Cardigan.]

40 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Nevern** church and village, with the steep wooded dingle and brawling river, form as picturesque a landscape as one could wish to see. In the churchyard is a very fine cross of the 9th centy., ornamented with network; somewhat similar to the one at Carew (Rte. 24). The ch. contains a coffin-lid with an early Greek cross. On an eminence above are traces of **Llanhyvor Castle**, probably the fortress of Martin de Tours before he married the daughter of Rhys ap Gruffydd, and removed to Newport. The Vale of Nevern from Eglwys-wrrw to the sea might be compared in all but extent with the Teifi side. The Nevern is fed by three tributaries, one flowing from the Preseley Hills.

On a by-road, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Nevern (but more easily approached by the upper road from Newport to Cardigan, which leaves Nevern to the l.) is the cromlech of **Pentre-evan**, only equalled in Wales by that of St. Nicholas near Cardiff (Rte. 1). The by-road, which leads to within a field of it, is entered by taking the second turning to the right after the turn to Pentre-evan Farm, and the tourist may rejoin the road

to Cardigan without retracing his steps, as this by-road, with a little circuit, opens out into the turnpike road. This cromlech's height is such that 6 persons on horseback can be conveniently sheltered. Pentre-evan cromlech has a gigantic capstone, $16\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long by $9\frac{1}{2}$ ft. broad, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. thick at the S. end, poised on a big stone to the N. end, and two laterally placed stones to the S., with a stone set on end, but not touching the capstone between them. The E. and W. are for the most part open, but two huge stones are a little detached at the S.E. corner, and three fallen stones lie towards the N. end, partly beneath the cromlech, and another at a little distance to the S.W. There are also remains of an old mansion of Hen. VII.'s time, inhabited by Sir James ap Owain.

On the farm of Tre-Scert, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Nevern, is the large cromlech of **Llech-y-Drybedd**.

The road to Cilgerran crosses the Nevern at **Pont Baldwyn**, from whence the archbishop of that name, accompanied by Giraldus, preached the crusades.

42 m. on l. is the solitary little chapel of **Bayvil**. The road, which has been continually ascending from Nevern, presents some fine views over Newport, Dinas Head, and Fishguard, while on rt. the Preseley Hills are seen to great advantage.

43 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. on l. are 5 singular tumuli called **Crugiau Kemmes**.

49 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. Crossing the Teifi by a fine stone bridge, the visitor arrives at the county town of **Cardigan** (Rte. 23). The road from Cardigan to Aberaeron, 23 m., runs inland, and is uninteresting; but some fine scenery is to be met with by following the coast.

56 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. is **Aberporth**, one of the little primitive fishing and bathing

places in which Cardiganshire abounds. Between it and Penbryn is an inscribed sepulchral stone.

58 m. *Tyllwyd* (Capt. Pritchard).

59 m. on l. **Castle Nadolig**, a strong fortified camp, nearly semi-circular, well situated for commanding the passes of the South.

Further on is **New Quay**, a small harbour and bathing village, containing a population of about 1800 persons, principally engaged in fishing and shipbuilding. On rt. is *Noyadd House* (T. H. Rice, Esq.).

69 m. rt. is the village of **Llanarth**, the churchyard of which contains an inscribed stone bearing a cross, with 4 circular holes at the junction of the arms. The story runs, that a disturbance was once caused in the church by the Evil One, and that the vicar was sent with bell, book, and candle to drive him out. He pursued the intruder so briskly up to the top of the tower, that the latter had nothing to do but to leap over the battlements, which he did, coming plump amongst the grave-stones, and leaving traces of his arms and knees on the stone in question.

73 m. **§Aberaeron**, a small watering-place, which, however, owing to the improving care of the land-owners in the neighbourhood, has gradually been rising in the estimation of sea-bathers. From a little retired village it has become a rather important market-town, at which a good deal of county business is transacted. The situation is beautiful, bounded on each side by steep cliffs, and the wide Bay of Cardigan before it. A ch. has been erected here, as the parish ch. is at *Llanddewi Aberarth*, about 1 m. distant. The *Aeron*, at whose mouth the town is situate, has its main watershed on the eastern slope of Mynyddbach, and after a course for some distance away from the sea, winds round near

Llangeitho and Capel Bettws, and passes Abermeurig and Llanllŷr on the way to Aberaeron. Aberaeron has thriven owing to its superiority to Cardigan as a county centre. On the shore is a circular camp known as **Castell Cadwgan**, and supposed to have been founded by Cadwgan ap Bleddyn in 1148.

The road from Aberaeron to Aberystwyth runs for several miles on the face of extremely steep cliffs, commanding magnificent sea-views, as well as the whole coast-line of Cardigan Bay and the ranges of Plinlimmon, Cader Idris, and the North Wallian Hills. Few roads present such a glorious panorama.

75 m. **Aberarth** village; 2 m. to the rt. is *Monachty* (Major Hughes, lord of the manor).

78 m. l. **Llansaintfread Ch.**, situated between the road and the sea. 79 m. rt. *Atllwyd* (Mrs. Hughes).

At **Llanrhystid**, placed at the mouth of the river Wyrriai, is a fine modern ch. The road is joined on rt. by a cross-road to Lampeter; passing *Mabus*, the seat of Colonel Begbie. The cliffs, which for the last 2 or 3 miles have sunk, again become lofty and precipitous, and frequently abound in caves and fissures.

85 m. From the top of a steep descent, dignified by the name of *Chancery*, a fine view is gained of the Ystwyth and its wooded banks as it winds at the bottom of the vale. At 86 m. it is crossed at the bridge of **Llanychaiarn**, a picturesque little village, with the ch. close to the l. bank of the river. On l. is **Bryn-Eithin** (H. S. Richards, Esq.), situated at the foot of the **Altwen Cliff**, a favourite walk from Aberystwyth. Passing the turnpike at Piccadilly, from whence two other roads diverge to the Devil's Bridge and Llanavan, the tourist arrives at 89 m. **§Aberystwyth** (Rte. 22).

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Rail to Hereford *viâ* Erwood (for Craig-y-pwll-ddu), Rhayader, Brecon, and Aberystwyth.

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Hotels: *Ivy Bush*, good; *Boar's Head*.

Rail.—By *S. Wales* to Swansea, London, and Milford. *Central Wales* system to Pembroke, Tenby, Llandeilo, Craven Arms, and the North; by *Manchester and Milford Railway* to Lampeter and Aberystwyth; by *Caermarthen* to Llandysill.

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CARDIFF, 13.

Hotels: *Royal; Park; Angel*; all good.

Omnibuses run every 10 minutes between the town and the Docks (a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.), as well as to those of Penarth, Taff Vale Rly., and S. Wales Rly.; all communicate direct with the docks.

Steamers ply daily to Bristol and Portishead, according to tides; also to Burnham, on the opposite coast, in connection with the Somerset and Dorset Rly., and to Cork, in alternation with Newport. One or twice a week there are steam-packets to Gloucester and Swansea, as well as frequent excursions to Weston.

Rail to Newport, 12 m.; Bridgend, 20 m.; Cowbridge, 12 m.; Merthyr, 24 m.; Llandaff, 2 m.; Pontypridd, 13 m.; Rhymney, 24 m.; Caerphilly, 9 m.; London, 170 m.

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Hotels: *Beaufort Arms*; *George*.

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Distances: Tintern, 5 m.; Wyndcliff, 3 m.; Raglan, 12½ m.; Caerwent, 5½ m.; Caldecot Castle, 6½ m.

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Hotels: *Castle*, good;
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Rail to Milford, Caer-
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Omnibus to St. David's,
16 m., on Tuesdays, Thurs-
days, and Saturdays; Fish-
guard, 14 m., daily; New-
port, do. Independently
of the Castle Hotel there
is a good posting estab-
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Hotels: *Green Dragon*;
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Rail: South Wales Ry. to Cardiff, 46 m.; Neath, 8 m.; Llanelly, 10 m.; Milford, 69 m.; Caermarthen, 27 m. By *Great Western Ry.* to Neath, 8 m.; Hirwain, 20 m.; Aberdare, 23 m. By *Swansea Va'e Ry.* (Rte. 20) to Pontardawe, 8 m.; Ystalyfert, 12 m. By *Oystermouth Ry.* to Mumbles, 5 m. By *London and North Western Ry.* to Pontardulais, 11½ m.; Llandeilo, 24 m. There is also a good service of steam-packets to Liverpool, Bristol, Tenby, Milford, etc.

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Distances: Saundersfoot, 3½ m.; Carew, 6 m.;

Gumfreston, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.; St. Florence, 3 m.; Lydstep, 4 m.; Penally, 2 m.; Manorbeer, 6 m.; Hoyle's Mouth, 1 m.

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[*S. Wales.*]

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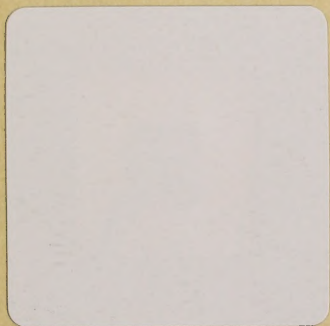
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